BOWL-BOUND: WHERE IS YOUR TEAM GOING TO PLAY? 20

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Weekend

DARK SIDE OF DANCE

Ballerinas battle for a coveted role in the intense 'Black Swan' 29

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A single Arlington grave is found to hold eight sets of remains 9

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WHAT ON EARTH?

IN A TOXIC CALIFORNIA LAKE, SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED A LIFE FORM UNLIKE ANYTHING THEY'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.

COULD THIS ARSENIC-LOVING BACTERIUM HOLD THE KEY TO FINDING LIFE ON PLANETS LONG CONSIDERED INHOSPITABLE?

PAGE 11

DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES

eo

eye openers

Agnostics: 'Well, We Don't Actually KNOW Anything'

Drivers coming into New York via the Lincoln Tunnel are getting caught up in a battle of beliefs. First, an anti-Christmas billboard — "You know it's a myth. This season, celebrate reason!" — was set up by the American Atheists. Now, the Catholic League has countered by putting up its own billboard — "You know it's real. This season, celebrate Jesus." **(AP)**

"It's not nice and fluffy, but the state is saying that this is an acceptable roll of toilet paper."

— **AL REITER,** A WARDEN AT AN IOWA STATE PRISON, DESCRIBES PLANS TO HAVE INMATES MAKE THEIR OWN BATHROOM TISSUE IN-HOUSE TO CUT COSTS.

Rich People Are Not Like the Rest of Us

Hundreds of students at a New Jersey prep school can now add "pie thrower in a world-record pie fight" to their college applications. Guinness World Records recently confirmed the Lawrenceville School set the record for the biggest custard pie fight, with 671 students and staff members. The record is based on

The Big Picture

STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

DAI HAIFEI looks out from the egg-shaped mobile home where he's been living for the last two months located near his office in Beijing. The house is made of bamboo strips and covered by a layer of heat-preservation and waterproof material. Seed packets on top could grow grass when spring comes. **(GETTY)**

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Nation

In Brief

BUFFALO, N.Y.

Snow Strands Hundreds

Hundreds of motorists were stranded on a western New York highway Thursday after an accident caused a backup and the idling trucks and cars got stuck overnight in heavy snow. Authorities said 16 miles of eastbound lanes along Interstate 90 were shut Thursday in Buffalo's eastern suburbs. (AP)

LOS ANGELES

Man Sought in Publicist's Death Kills Himself

A man wanted for questioning in the slaying of a Hollywood publicist killed himself in the lobby of a dreary Los Angeles hotel as police closed in with a search warrant. The death deepened the mystery of the slaying of Ronni Chasen, who was shot in her Mercedes as she drove home from a film premiere. (AP)

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Man Sentenced to Death In Conn. Home Invasion

A Connecticut man who said he was "tormented" by his crimes was sentenced to death on Thursday for the killings of a woman and her two daughters in a gruesome 2007 home invasion. Steven Hayes apologized just before New Haven Superior Court Judge Jon Blue pronounced the sentence that had been recommended last month by a jury that convicted Hayes. (AP)

Tax Compromise in the Works

Benefits extension for unemployed likely to be included in deal

Washington

A critical compromise to head off a year-end tax increase for millions of Americans took shape in private talks between the White House and congressional Republicans Thursday, and an extension of unemployment benefits for many others appeared likely to become part of any deal.

The Obama administration sought to expand the package with other provisions that officials said would accelerate the nation's sluggish economic recovery. They included a tax break providing as much as $400 for individual working people and $800 for couples — even if they pay nothing to the IRS.

Two days after he and newly empowered Republicans exchanged pledges of cooperation at the White House, President Obama expressed optimism about the prospects for agreement in time for enactment by year's end. Still, he cautioned, "That doesn't mean there might not be some posturing over the next several days."

Not long after Obama spoke, Democrats ignited a partisan row in the House with legislation that would prevent taxes from rising on lower- and middle-income wage earners but allow them to rise for people at higher incomes. The measure has no chance of passing the Senate, and Obama has already signaled he will accede to Republican demands for extending tax cuts at all income levels, making the vote symbolic.

The bill passed, 234-188, largely along party lines. The vote was followed by a meeting to discuss the compromise plan to extend existing cuts for taxpayers at all income levels. DAVID ESPO AND STEPHEN OHLEMACHER (AP)

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

People protest Thursday outside the New York City office of Sen. Charles Schumer to protest an extension of tax breaks for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans.

"I am trying to catch my breath so I don't refer to this maneuver going on today as chicken crap, all right?"

— HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER JOHN BOEHNER, WHEN ASKED THURSDAY ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS' BILL TO EXTEND BUSH-ERA TAX CUTS ONLY FOR THE FIRST $250,000 OF INCOME.

Meanwhile ...

The White House is pressing Congress to extend jobless benefits and other tax credits enacted as part of Obama's massive economic recovery package last year. Those proposals could form the basis of a compromise on the Bush tax cuts. Beyond unemployment insurance, the White House made the case Thursday for extending Obama's Making Work Pay tax credit for individuals, a tuition tax credit and a tax break that rewards employers who hire unemployed workers. All are to expire at the end of the year. (AP)

$1 **The amount Google paid** to a Pennsylvania couple for trespassing on property while taking a photo for its Street View service. Google conceded it trespassed but will pay only $1 in damages to Aaron and Christine Boring. The couple released a statement saying, "This is one sweet dollar of vindication." (AP)

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Nation

Disney Town's Tragedy

Idyllic Celebration sees first homicide in its 14-year history

Celebration, Fla.

Celebration, Disney's master-planned, picture-perfect central Florida community, has never reported a homicide in its 14-year existence — until this week.

Residents of the town five miles south of Walt Disney World woke up Tuesday to the sight of yellow crime-scene tape wrapped around a condo near the Christmas-decorated downtown, where Bing Crosby croons from speakers hidden in the foliage. A 58-year-old neighbor who lived alone with his Chihuahua had been slain over the long Thanksgiving weekend, Osceola County sheriff's deputies said.

The community's famous friendliness is what brought investigators to Matteo Giovanditto's body: Neighbors hadn't seen him for days, so they filed a missing person's report, then went into his condo a day later and found him.

A few years ago, a resident joked with a reporter that Celebration would feel like a real town when a bike was stolen. Now, it has an unsolved killing on its hands.

As word of the homicide blew around town like the leaves from the maple trees that line the sidewalks, people started to worry.

Officials were quick to soothe people who live here: Even with the killer still at large, there was no need to worry; no, not here. Giovanditto's death was an isolated incident, said Twis Lizasuain, a sheriff's spokeswoman.

"We don't believe the safety of the residents is in jeopardy," Lizasuain said. **TAMARA LUSH (AP)**

JOHN RAOUX/AP

Matteo Giovanditto's body was found in his Celebration, Fla., condo on Monday.

Backstory

With 11,000 residents, Celebration is something of an anomaly in Central Florida. There's no suburban sprawl — the entire place is reminiscent of a quaint New England village. Disney relinquished control of Celebration several years ago; the town is now maintained like any other in Osceola County. But it still retains theme park-like flourishes: a colorful kiosk sells tickets to a little train that ferries children and adults around town, and tourists in Disney shirts roam the streets and take photos. **(AP)**

House Censures N.Y. Rep. Rangel

Washington

Veteran Rep. Charles Rangel, the raspy-voiced, backslapping former chairman of one of Congress' most powerful committees, was censured by his House colleagues for financial misconduct Thursday in a solemn moment of humiliation in the sunset of his career.

Rangel

After the 333-79 vote, the Democrat from New York's Harlem stood at the front of the House and faced Speaker Nancy Pelosi as she read him the formal resolution of censure.

Responding, he admitted he had made mistakes and said he was sorry he had put fellow House members in an embarrassing position. But he suggested the winds of politics were involved as well.

"In my heart, I truly feel good," Rangel said. "A lot of it has to do with the fact that I know in my heart that I am not going to be judged by this Congress, but I am going to be judged by my life."

It was only the 23rd time in the nation's history that a House member received the most severe punishment short of expulsion.

"I brought it on to myself," he said of his troubles. **(AP)**

Hearsay

"We send these young people into combat. ... I think they're mature enough to make a judgment on who they want to serve with."

— SEN. JOHN MCCAIN, DISMISSING THE PENTAGON'S STUDY AS BIASED AND ADDING HE WANTS "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" UPHELD.

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World

UN Agency: 2010 Likely a Top Scorcher

This year is on track to cap hottest decade on record, data show

Cancun, Mexico

A scorching summer that killed thousands in Russia and exceptionally mild winters in the Arctic were among extreme weather events that have put 2010 on track to be one of the three hottest years on record, U.N. experts said Thursday.

The data from the World Meteorological Organization show that the last decade was the warmest ever, part of a trend scientists attribute to man-made pollution trapping heat in the atmosphere.

Parts of Greenland, where glaciers are threatened with summer melt, had an annual average temperature of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, said the WMO's preliminary report, released on the sidelines of a 193-nation U.N. conference on climate change.

The WMO said the same extreme weather event that suffocated Russia also caused the floods in Pakistan that killed 1,700 people and displaced 20 million. The year also witnessed heavy rains that lashed Australia and Indonesia, flooding in Thailand and Vietnam, and drought in the Amazon basin and China.

0.02

The difference in degrees Celsius (0.036 degrees Fahrenheit) among the warmest years on record, 1998 and 2005, and likely 2010, according to U.N. data. (AP)

"The year 2010 is almost certain to rank in the top three warmest years since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850," the WMO said.

Natural disasters or weather events cannot be directly traced to climate change, said Michel Jarraud, WMO's secretary-general. But the trend leaves little doubt the Earth is warming in ways that cannot be explained by nature, he said.

Jarraud said temperatures through October were at near-record levels this year. November and December data will be analyzed in early 2011 but are expected to be colder than normal.

Still, "there is a significant possibility 2010 could be the warmest" year on record, Jarraud said. The two other extraordinary years were 1998 and 2005. **ARTHUR MAX (AP)**

Meanwhile ...

Iran effectively closed Tehran on Thursday because of high pollution, the third such break in two weeks that shut down government offices, schools, banks and factories. Bad air is not new for Tehran, but the current haze is more noxious and lingering longer than most. **(AP)**

Swedish Court Backs Order to Detain Assange

London

Swedish authorities won a ruling Thursday in their bid to arrest WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for questioning in a rape case.

Assange

Assange, 39, who has embarrassed the U.S. government and foreign leaders with his online release of U.S. diplomatic cables, suffered a legal setback when Sweden's Supreme Court upheld an order to detain him. Sweden has alerted Interpol and issued a European arrest warrant.

Assange denies the charges and continues to leak sensitive documents. He has not made a public appearance for nearly a month. His lawyer insisted authorities know where to find him. **(AP)**

Fire Ravages Israeli Forest

DAVID BUIMOVITCH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A FIREFIGHTER STANDS close to the blaze on Thursday that has charred at least 1,600 acres in northern Israel. Unusually hot and parched conditions contributed to the rapid spread of the worst forest fire in Israel's history, and an investigation is under way into what sparked the fire. The death toll rose to at least 36 after a bus racing to evacuate inmates from an Israeli prison burst into flames, killing dozens of prison guards, officials said. Thousands fled ahead of the fire. **(AP)**

In Brief

SYDNEY

Panel Identifies Defect In A380 Engine Blowout

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau on Thursday identified the source of an oil leak that caused a Qantas A380 engine to blow apart in midair last month, blaming a suspected defect in Rolls-Royce's Trent 900 engine. **(AP)**

TEHRAN, IRAN

Iran Says Arrests Made In Attacks on Scientists

Iran has made a number of arrests in the assassination of a prominent nuclear scientist, an Iranian official said Thursday. Intelligence Minister Heidar Moslehi said the arrests have given Iran "new clues" about the people involved in the recent attacks on two nuclear scientists. **(AP)**

ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

Opposition Leader Wins Election, Official Says

The head of Ivory Coast's electoral commission on Thursday declared opposition leader Alassane Ouattara the winner of the contested presidential election. Ruling party loyalists disputed the win, which must still be validated by the country's constitutional council. **(AP)**

Seeking Green Popemobile: Anyone have a fast, solar-powered electric popemobile for his holiness? The Vatican says Pope Benedict XVI would gladly use one as another sign of his efforts to promote sustainable energy, but one has yet to be offered. Earlier this week, Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo said Benedict would prefer an electric popemobile to a petroleum-powered one, given his emphasis on making the Vatican a leader in green energy. **(AP)**

World

DUSAN VRANIC/AP

Sangin, Afghanistan, has been the deadliest district for coalition forces this year.

Challenges Lurk In Taliban Bastion

Coalition forces seek to nurture stability in deadly Afghan area

Sangin, Afghanistan

"Clear, hold and build" is the official formula for fighting the Taliban, but in this southern river valley, the most dangerous place in Afghanistan, the experts say you have to be a realist to succeed.

That may mean coordinating with the Taliban to get their approval for development projects and accepting that money may end up in insurgents' pockets.

The U.S. Marines and British civilian advisers in Helmand province's Sangin district are trying to build roads and schools in an area that teems with insurgents and crackles with gunfire and explosions from daily Taliban attacks.

"I'm definitely not trying to build the shining city upon a hill here," said Lt. Karl Kadon, 25, head of civil affairs for the Marine battalion in Sangin. "I'm just trying to build something that is stable enough that it's not going to bother us."

Even that is a daunting task. The Marines arrived in Sangin in October after four years of fighting by British forces that suffered heavy casualties and struggled to show progress.

Now roughly a dozen Marine civil affairs operatives and British government advisers there must maneuver through a minefield of competing forces: corrupt contractors, greedy tribal elders, insurgents, Taliban shadow government officials and, most powerful of all, drug lords.

The group sees the whole point of its effort as building up public trust in the local government, tough to do in a district that is almost entirely controlled by Taliban fighters. Sangin has also been the deadliest district in Afghanistan for coalition forces this year.

Lt. Col. Jason Morris, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in Sangin, sees one bright spot: Things have been bad in Sangin for so long that they can't get worse.

"In Sangin, you can almost only go up," Morris said. **(AP)**

$500K

The amount spent on development projects by the U.S. Marines since arriving in Afghanistan's Sangin district in October. An official said they could spend up to $4 million before leaving around April. British forces have spent nearly $1 million there in the past 18 months. (AP)

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The Wheel Deal

Your budding bus riders can practice their waiting skills with the Playmobil Bus Stop ($15.99, Amazon.com). There's no Next-Bus sign, but the set features freakishly realistic figures, including an annoying man holding a cell phone and what appears to be a tourist hauling a massive piece of luggage.

Grand (Idea) Central

Stash your cash and cards in the New York Subway Mighty Wallet ($15, Momastore.org), which looks like merely a map to pickpockets. And maybe to you, too, if you can't quite remember how to get to Christopher Street.

Love on the Line

Maybe you're not quite ready to put a ring on it, but let your strong feelings be known with a mug that proclaims, "I'd endure multiple subway transfers to be with you" ($15.50, Cafepress.com). Also available as a beer stein, gym bag, apron, notebook and more.

A Shoe-Win

Can't handle the hike home in pumps? Pull a pair of Kigo Stars ($49.99, Kigofootwear.com) from your bag, and you'll be ready to hoof it all night. Unlike sneakers, these light, Mary Jane-style shoes fold up to the size of earmuffs. If anyone asks about the hook at the toe, claim to be an elf.

METRO PULSE

When do you predict DC will see its first snow this winter?

"Not for a month at least. I hope it's not too soon. I've been in New Hampshire the last six winters and I don't want to have a winter like last year's."

Martin Dimitrov, WOODLEY PARK

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8 Unknowns in Arlington Grave

Army says cremated remains burial was likely not a mistake

Washington

Army criminal investigators are probing how eight sets of cremated remains came to be buried in a single grave site at Arlington National Cemetery, the latest in a series of revelations that have marred the reputation of the country's most prestigious military burial ground.

The investigation was launched after Kathyrn Condon, director of the Army's National Cemeteries Program, became "aware of questionable practices" in October, when officials discovered that eight sets of remains were buried under a single headstone that read "Unknown," Condon said Thursday.

KATHERINE FREY/TWP

In June, a report said there were 200 unmarked or misidentified graves at Arlington.

In June, the Army's inspector general released a scathing report that found widespread problems at the cemetery, including more than 200 unmarked or misidentified graves and at least four urns that had been unearthed.

Those problems were likely caused by human error, officials said. But the discovery of eight urns in a single grave site "is not likely a mistake," said Christopher Grey, a spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigation Command.

"It demanded an investigation to determine if there's any criminality involved in the burials."

CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Dec. 2

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-3-5
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	0-2-0
Mid-day DC 4	7-4-6-4
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	1-8-8-1
Mid-day D.C. Five	4-9-6-1-3
Evening D.C. Five (Wed.)	6-6-2-6-4
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	3-11-21-37-38 (8)

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	9-0-8
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	1-7-1
Mid-day Pick 4	4-1-3-6
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	8-4-6-8
Match 5 (Wed.)	14-15-16-21-32 (6)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	1-1-9
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	6-5-7
Mid-day Pick 4	3-9-8-4
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-0-4-4
Mid-day Cash 5	5-12-14-22-33
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	5-9-24-28-33
Win For Life (Wed.)	4-15-21-23-34-41 (25)

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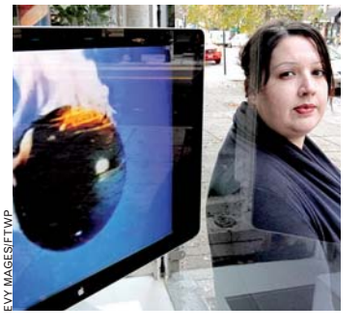
In Brief



EVY MAGES/FTWP

The Transformer Gallery's Victoria Reis is shown with the controversial video.

WASHINGTON

Gallery Vows 24-Hour Smithsonian Protest

A Washington art gallery is pledging a 24-hour protest against what it calls censorship by the Smithsonian Institution for removing a video from an exhibit after complaints from conservative groups. Transformer Gallery manager Barbara Escobar says it will show the video piece, "A Fire in My Belly" by David Wojnarowicz, in its storefront window every day until it's reinstated at the National Portrait Gallery. **(AP)**

ROCKVILLE, MD.

Montgomery County Faces $350M Shortfall

Montgomery County is facing a two-year budget shortfall of $350 million, an unexpectedly wide gap just six months after its last tumultuous round of reductions. Officials are being told to scour departments immediately for new cuts. Numerous programs will shrink or be eliminated, and hundreds of layoffs are possible next year, officials said. **(THE WASHINGTON POST)**

WASHINGTON

Mayor-Elect's Wallet Stolen on Thanksgiving

A store worker has been accused of stealing Washington Mayor-elect Vincent Gray's credit card on Thanksgiving Day and using it to buy cigarettes and liquor. Court documents show 22-year-old Tamika Garris was a CVS store cashier who rang up Gray's purchases last Thursday. Surveillance video shows Garris picking up Gray's wallet after he left it behind on the store counter. **(AP)**

Life-Altering Discovery

Microbe that feeds off arsenic may greatly expand the search for alien life forms

Science

All life on Earth — from microbes to elephants and humans — is based on a single genetic model that requires the element phosphorus as one of its six essential components.

But now researchers have uncovered a bacterium that has five of those essential elements but has, in effect, replaced phosphorus with its look-alike but toxic cousin arsenic.

News of the discovery caused a scientific commotion, including calls to NASA from the White House and Congress asking whether a second line of earthly life has been found.

A NASA press conference Thursday and an accompanying article in the journal Science, gave the answer: No, the discovery does not prove the existence of a "second genesis" on Earth. But the discovery very much opens the door to that possibility and to the related existence of a theorized "shadow biosphere" on Earth — life evolved from a different common ancestor than all that we've known so far.

"It defies logic to think she found the only example of this kind of unusual life. Quite clearly, this is the tip of a huge iceberg."

—**THEORETICAL PHYSICIST AND COSMOLOGIST PAUL DAVIES**, ON THE DISCOVERY BY FELISA WOLFE-SIMON, WITH WHOM HE WROTE THE ARTICLE IN THE JOURNAL "SCIENCE."

"Our findings are a reminder that life-as-we-know-it could be much more flexible than we generally assume or can imagine," said Felisa Wolfe-Simon, the biochemist who led the effort after being selected as a NASA Astrobiology Research Fellow and as a member of the National Astrobiology Institute team at Arizona State University.

The research, funded through NASA and conducted with samples from California's Mono Lake, found that some of the bacteria not only used arsenic to live, but had arsenic embedded into their DNA, RNA and other basic underpinnings.

"This is different from anything we've seen before," said Mary Voytek, senior scientist for NASA's program in astrobiology, the arm of the agency involved specifically in the search for life beyond Earth and for how life began here.

Chemist Steven Benner of the Foundation for Applied Molecular Evolution in Florida who has been involved in "shadow biosphere" research for several years, says that the Mono Lake results are intriguing.

"I do not see any simple explanation for the reported results that is broadly consistent with other information well known to chemistry," he said, but adding the results are not yet proven. His conclusion: "It remains to be established that this bacterium uses arsenate as a replacement for phosphate in its DNA or in any other biomolecule."

Nonetheless, the paper and its results have created an excitement reminiscent of the 1995 announcement at NASA headquarters of the discovery of apparent signs of ancient life in a meteorite from Mars found in Antarctica. That finding was central to establishing the field of astrobiology, but was also broadly challenged and a scientific consensus evolved that the case for signs of life in the meteorite had not been proven.

The Mono Lake discovery highlights one of the central challenges of astrobiology — knowing what to look for in terms of extraterrestrial life. While it remains uncertain whether the lake's microbes represent another line of life, they show that organisms can have a chemical architecture different from what is currently understood to be possible.

MARC KAUFMAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES

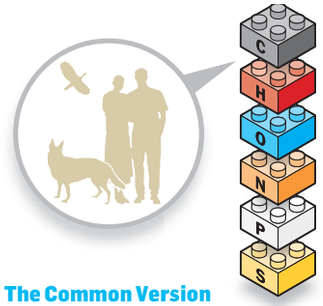
Mono Lake is homes to a bacterium that relies on arsenic rather than phosphorous to survive, according to NASA and an accompanying article in the journal Science.

Why Mono Lake?

The lake receives run-off from the Sierra Nevada mountains, which have relatively high concentrations of arsenic. When the water arrives at Mono Lake, it has nowhere to go because there are no rivers carrying water further downstream. That means the arsenic, and other elements and compounds, can concentrate to unusally high levels. (TWP)

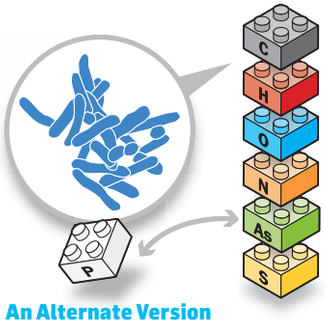
Life, as We Didn't Know It

The discovery of bacteria that use a different chemical building block in their structure stretches the scientific definition of life.



The Common Version

Six main chemical building blocks were thought to be necessary for life: carbon, hydrogen, phosphorus, nitrogen and sulfur.



An Alternate Version

The bacteria scooped from arsenic-laden Mono Lake in California as a building block instead of phosphorus.

So What?

In addition to making sci-fi writers salivate, the discover means scientists must think more broadly about what life can be made of, and by extension, where it could exist.

SOURCE: PROF. ARIEL ANBAR, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY; GRAPHIC: BONNIE BERKOWITZ AND ALBERTO CUADRA/THE WASHINGTON POST

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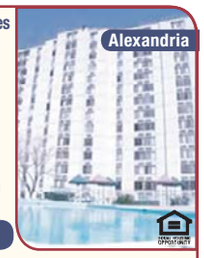

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sports

Little Qatar pulls off big upset over U.S. in bid for the 2022 World Cup | 21

TV Lineup

MIC SMITH/AP

Austin Freeman's Hoyas put their perfect record on the line on Saturday.

Friday

7 P.M. After an awful showing in Toronto, the Wizards return home to face the Portland Trail Blazers. CSN

7 P.M. No. 25 Northern Illinois takes on Miami (Ohio) in the MAC Championship in Detroit. ESPN2

Saturday

NOON Georgetown's men's basketball team hosts Utah State days after its thriller against Missouri. MASN

3:15 P.M. In a rematch of last year's NCAA title, game Duke plays Gonzaga in East Rutherford, N.J. ESPN

7 P.M. The Capitals host the Atlanta Thrashers. CSN

7:45 P.M. Virginia Tech battles Florida State in the ACC title game in Charlotte. ESPN

Sunday

1 P.M. The Redskins meet the New York Giants in the first of two late-season NFC East games. Fox

2:30 P.M. Florida plays American in the opening game of the BB&T Classic. MASN

5 P.M. In the second game of the BB&T, George Washington tips off against Navy. MASN

6 P.M. Virginia and Virginia Tech meet as ACC basketball play begins. CSN

8 P.M. Maryland and Temple play in the finale of the BB&T Classic. MASN

8:15 P.M. The Ravens host the Steelers in a key AFC North matchup. NBC

Extra Special Effort

Return man Banks is a rare explosive threat for Redskins

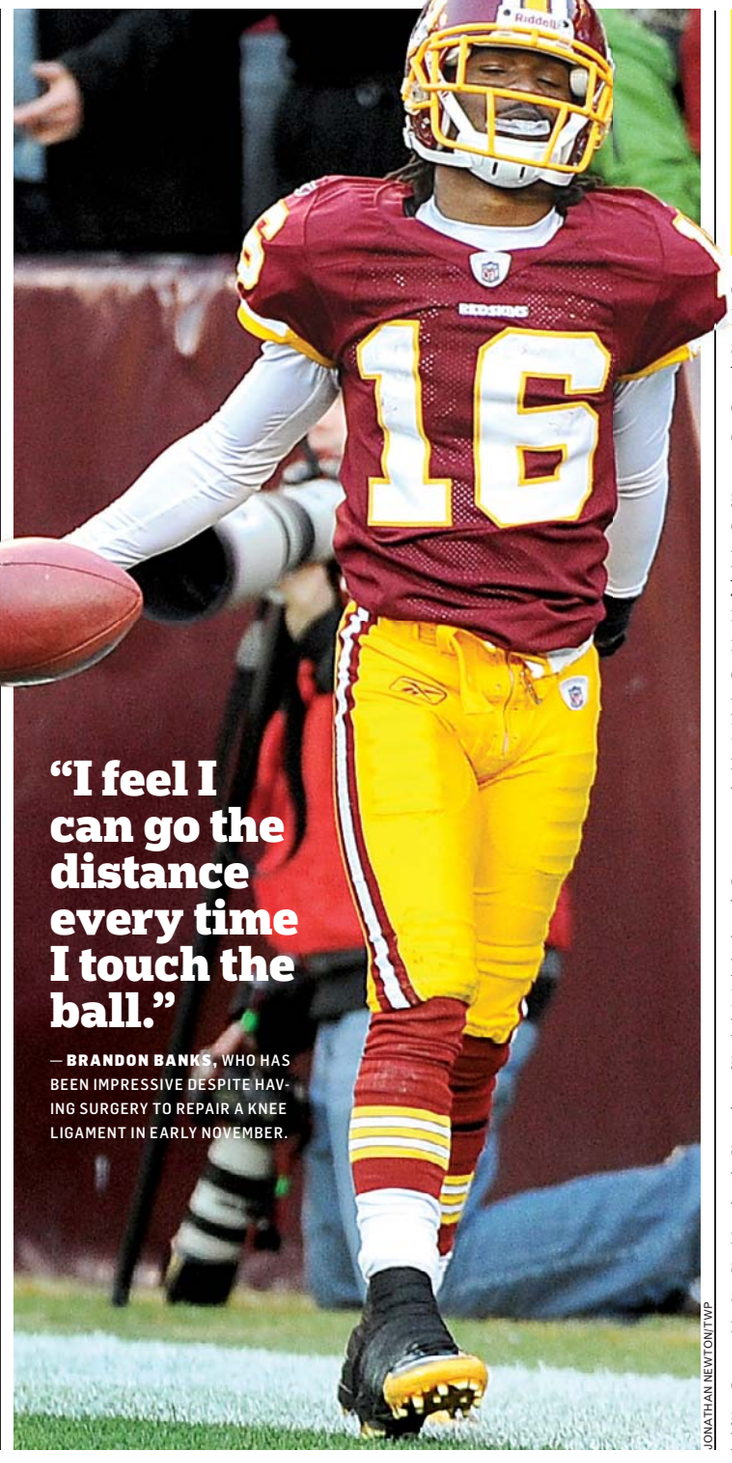
1 P.M. Sunday | FOX

These days, the Redskins' best chance to score is when the offense isn't even on the field.

Brandon Banks — a rookie return specialist and current titleholder of NFL's smallest player — has become Washington's most significant offensive weapon even though he's done all his damage to this point on special teams.

Banks was nearly the difference in last weekend's clash against the Vikings, but his 77-yard punt return for a touchdown was called back because of teammate Perry Riley's block in the back. It was a block that Riley didn't even need to make, as replays showed Banks would have beaten the Vikings players who were chasing him to the crease in the coverage whether or not Riley committed the infraction. It was the second return touchdown that Banks has had called back this year and demonstrated again that he possesses a rare and valuable commodity: He's so fast, his teammates don't have to make all their blocks for him to score.

Banks' emergence is a welcome change from a year ago, when Washington's special teams were struggling to flip the field on returns. Veteran receiver Antwaan Randle El averaged just 6 yards per punt return last season (an inflated average when you considered he had one 43-yarder). Receiver Devin Thomas fared better, averaging 22 yards per kick return, but fell out of favor with the new coaching staff and was cut earlier this season.



"I feel I can go the distance every time I touch the ball."

— **BRANDON BANKS**, WHO HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE DESPITE HAVING SURGERY TO REPAIR A KNEE LIGAMENT IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

5'6"

The height of Brandon Banks, who has earned the nickname of "Mighty Mouse" for his sterllar special teams play for the Redskins this season. (EXPRESS)

But Banks has made fans forget about Thomas' special teams contributions, averaging 27 yards per kick return this season and 11.3 yards per punt return. Banks has four kick returns of 40 yards or more — including a 96-yard touchdown against Detroit — and four punt returns of at least 20 yards. He set a franchise record with 271 return yards in the Week 8 loss to the Lions.

"A lot of people were laughing [at the beginning of the season]," coach Mike Shanahan said. "We brought him in and they saw a guy that's 5-foot-6 and 150 pounds. 'Can he actually help in the National Football League?' Now every time he touches the ball, you feel like he's got a chance to go the distance"

Will Banks develop into a viable weapon on offense? The Redskins are certainly looking for ways to get him more touches. Banks took a snap out of the wildcat formation in last weekend's loss and seems likely to get more chances at receiver as his knee gets back to full strength.

"Hopefully as the season goes on and he's feeling better, we can give him some more reps," Shanahan said. ERIC BRANDNER

sports

College Kickoffs

GETTY IMAGES

OREGON (1) AT OREGON STATE

Story Line: If the No. 1 Ducks win the "Civil War," they're a lock for the national championship game in January. Oregon has already wrapped up at least a share of the Pac-10 title. The Beavers, who have lost three of their last four games, need a victory just to become bowl-eligible and avoid their first losing season since 2005. **(3:30 P.M., ABC)**

AUBURN (2) AT S. CAROLINA (2)

Story Line: With a win in the SEC title game, Auburn would continue an undefeated season, wrap up a chance at the national title with its first SEC crown since 2004 and likely ensure QB Cam Newton of the Heisman Trophy. South Carolina is shooting for its first SEC championship. **(4 P.M., CBS)**

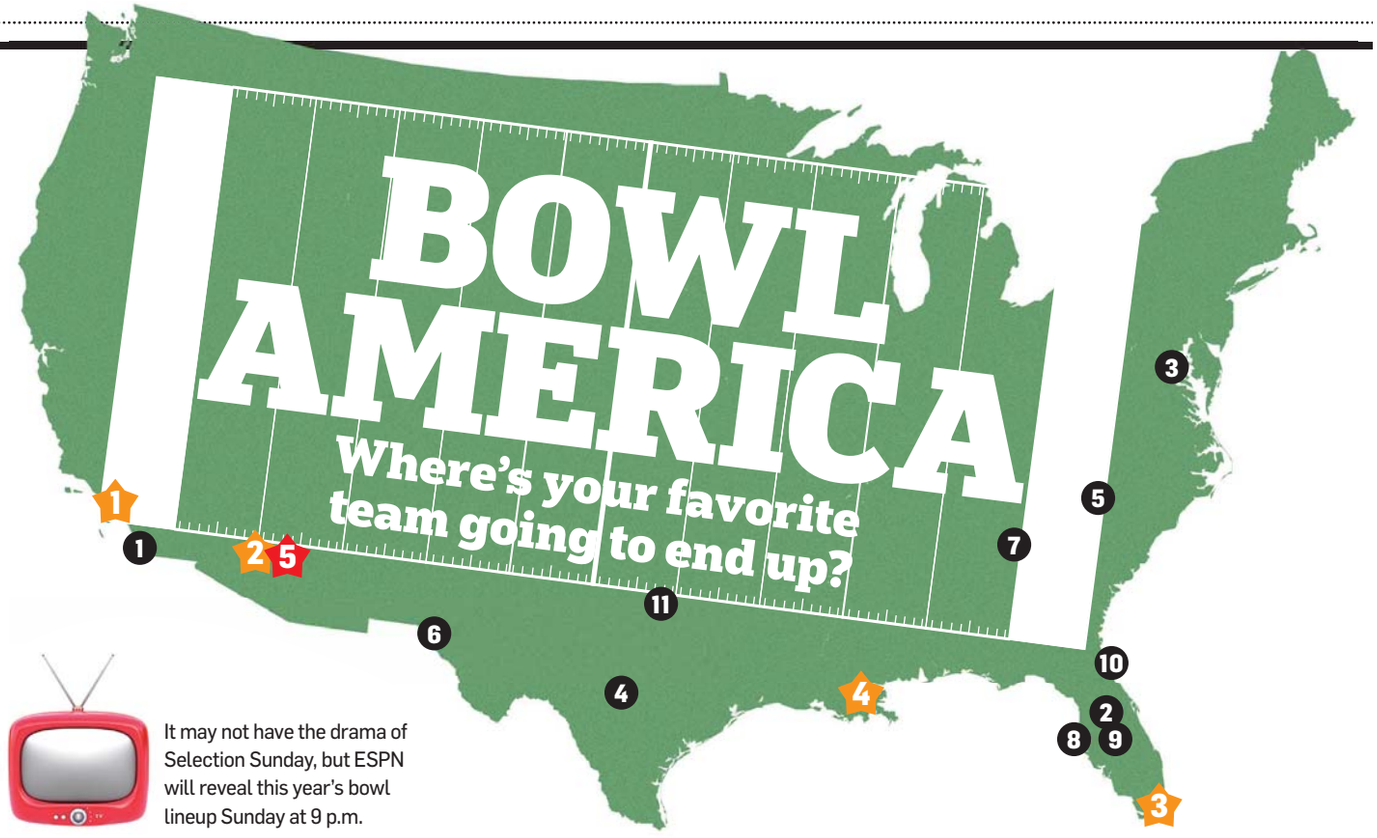
VA. TECH (12) AT FLA. STATE (20)

Story Line: Virginia Tech is seeking its fourth ACC title since it joined the conference in 2004 and its third championship game victory in four tries. The Hokies' only loss in the championship game came against Florida State in 2005, and it was the Seminoles' only prior appearance in the title game. **(7:45 P.M., ESPN)**

OKLAHOMA (10) AT NEBRASKA (13)

Story Line: Nebraska tries to finish its run as a member of the Big 12 by winning the conference title before bolting to the Big Ten. Oklahoma, which already has twice as many Big 12 titles as any other school, will go for No. 7. The winner almost certainly earns a berth in the Fiesta Bowl. **(8 P.M., ABC)**

ALL GAMES PLAYED ON SATURDAY



It may not have the drama of Selection Sunday, but ESPN will reveal this year's bowl lineup Sunday at 9 p.m.

We won't know which team is going to which bowl until Sunday, but what's the fun in waiting until all of the games have been played? There's plenty at stake this weekend — with the results in a championship-filled slate of contests not only affecting spots in the BCS games but also bowls across the country, including D.C.'s own Military Bowl. Here's Express' best guess at what most of this year's top bowls will look like. **(EXPRESS)**

DEC. 23, 2010

1 SAN DIEGO COUNTY CREDIT UNION POINSETTIA BOWL
SAN DIEGO • 8 P.M. ESPN
Matchup: Mountain West No. 2 vs. Navy
Projection: San Diego State vs. Navy

DEC. 28, 2010

2 CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
ORLANDO, FLA. • 6:30 P.M. ESPN
Matchup: ACC No. 3 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame
Projection: N.C. State vs. Notre Dame

DEC. 29, 2010

MILITARY BOWL PRESENTED BY
3 NORTHROP GRUMMAN
WASHINGTON, DC • 2:30 P.M. ESPN
Matchup: ACC No. 8 vs. C-USA No. 4
Projection: Maryland vs. East Carolina

4 VALERO ALAMO BOWL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS • 8 P.M. ESPN
Matchup: Big 12 No. 2 or 3 vs. Pac 10 No. 2
Projection: Oklahoma State vs. Arizona

DEC. 31, 2010

5 MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL
CHARLOTTE, N.C. • 12 P.M. ESPN
Matchup: Big East No. 3 vs. ACC No. 5
Projection: West Virginia vs. Clemson

6 HYUNDAI SUN BOWL
EL PASO, TEXAS • 2 P.M. CBS
Matchup: ACC No. 4 vs. Pac 10 No. 4
Projection: Miami vs. Temple **(NO PAC 10 TEAM PROJECTED ELIGIBLE)**

7 CHICK-FIL-A BOWL
ATLANTA • 7:30 P.M. ESPN
Matchup: ACC No. 2 vs. SEC No. 3, 4 or 5
Projection: Florida State vs. Mississippi State

JAN. 1, 2011

8 OUTBACK BOWL
TAMPA, FLA. • 1 P.M. ABC
Matchup: Big Ten No. 3 vs. SEC No. 3, 4 or 5
Projection: Iowa vs. South Carolina

9 CAPITAL ONE BOWL
ORLANDO, FLA. • 1 P.M. ABC
Matchup: Big Ten No. 2 vs. SEC No. 2
Projection: Michigan State vs. LSU

10 GATOR BOWL
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. • 1:30 P.M. ESPN2
Matchup: Big Ten No. 4 or 5 vs. SEC No. 6
Projection: Penn State vs. Florida

JAN. 7, 2011

11 AT&T COTTON BOWL
ARLINGTON, TEXAS • 8 P.M. FOX
Matchup: Big 12 No. 2 vs. SEC No. 3, 4, or 5
Projection: Texas A&M vs. Alabama

BCS Games

JAN. 1, 2011

1 ROSE BOWL
PASADENA, CALIF. • 4:30 P.M. ABC
Matchup: Big Ten No. 1 vs. Pac 10 No. 1
Projection: Wisconsin vs. TCU

2 FIESTA BOWL
GLENDALE, ARIZ. • 8 P.M. ABC
Matchup: Big 12 No. 1 vs. BCS
Projection: Oklahoma vs. Stanford

JAN. 3, 2011

3 DISCOVER ORANGE BOWL
MIAMI • 8 P.M. ABC
Matchup: ACC No. 1 vs. BCS at-large
Projection: Virginia Tech vs. Connecticut

JAN. 4, 2011

4 ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL
NEW ORLEANS • 8 P.M. ABC
Matchup: SEC No. 1 vs. BCS at-large
Projection: Arkansas vs. Ohio State

JAN. 10, 2011

5 BCS CHAMPIONSHIP
GLENDALE, ARIZ. • 8 P.M. ABC
Matchup: BCS No. 1 vs. BCS No. 2
Projection: Auburn vs. Oregon

sports

U.S. World Cup Bid Falls to Qatar

Desert nation will be first Middle East host of tournament

Soccer

The tiny desert nation of Qatar beat out the United States as the 2022 World Cup host, with FIFA brushing aside doubts about blistering heat to bring soccer's showcase event for the first time to the Middle East.

The 22 voters on FIFA's executive committee, some accused of corruption in the weeks leading up to their meeting, picked Russia to stage the 2018 tournament, another first-time host. Both votes were taken Thursday, and the results announced minutes apart.

Qatar, an oil-rich nation that has been independent since 1971, has a population of about 1.7 million — 500,000 less than Houston. At 4,416 square miles, it is smaller than Connecticut. "We go to new lands," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

OSAMA FAISAL/AP

Qataris celebrate on Thursday after the nation won its bid to host the 2022 World Cup.

Qatar, which has promised to overcome heat of up to 130 degrees with air-conditioned outdoor stadiums, led on every round of balloting that initially included Australia, Japan and South Korea. Qatar won the final vote 14-8 over the U.S.

"Basically, oil and natural gas won today. This was not about merit; this was about money," former U.S. national team star Eric Wynalda said.

American sports executives are now left to wonder what they have to do to host another major international event. Last year, the International Olympic Committee chose Rio de Janeiro over Chicago and others for the 2016 Olympics despite a personal lobbying effort by President Obama. At the White House on Thursday, Obama said, "I think it was the wrong decision," when asked about FIFA's choice.

RAF CASERT (AP)

Dunn Departs Nats for $56M Deal in Chicago

The Nationals

First baseman Adam Dunn has signed a four-year, $56 million contract with the Chicago White Sox, pending a physical, a baseball source confirmed. The deal closes the door for the Nationals to re-sign their best slugger over the past two seasons and one of their most popular players, both among fans and teammates.

The sides agreed to the rough outline of the deal late Wednesday night, the source said, and finalized the deal Thursday afternoon. Dunn, 31, will move on to Chicago after drilling 76 home runs in his two seasons in Washington.

"I'd be disappointed for me," Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman said. "I'm very happy for him. Obviously, if he's going to go there, he's going to get a four-year deal, and that's what he deserves." (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Sunday Pick'Em

	Matt Swenson, SPORTS EDITOR, EXPRESS	Clinton Yates, SPORTS EDITOR, EXPRESS	John Domen, NEWS ANCHOR, 106.7 THE FAN	Arnie Applebaum, GENERAL MANAGER, EXPRESS
REDSKINS (PLUS 7) AT GIANTS	**GIANTS** Redskins just don't have the weapons to stay with Eli Manning's boys.	**GIANTS** We are now in "look forward to the 2012 draft" territory for Redskins fans.	**GIANTS** Redskins finally meeting the low expectations I had for them in September.	**REDSKINS** The Redskins are a .500 team and follow up losses with surprising wins.
JAGUARS (NO LINE) AT TITANS	**JAGUARS** Is the Jeff Fisher era coming to a close in the Music City?	**TITANS** Chris Johnson is due for a breakout game, and the Jags are 20th against the run.	**JAGUARS** Can you imagine Maurice Jones-Drew back in L.A. again? I bet the NFL can, too.	**TITANS** Assuming Todd Collins plays — at this point in my life, I always go with the old guys.
FALCONS (MINUS 3) AT BUCS	**FALCONS** The Falcons, who are dreaming of home field in the playoffs, could run the table.	**BUCCANEERS** I don't particularly trust the Falcons to win games anywhere outside Atlanta.	**BUCCANEERS** If you don't know how good both of these teams are, you need to recognize it quickly.	**FALCONS** Falcons are surging, and the Bucs haven't had a significant win yet.
STEELERS (PLUS 3) AT RAVENS	**STEELERS** The Ravens aren't good enough to sweep the Steelers, even if Big Ben is banged up.	**RAVENS** I picked them to make the Super Bowl because I expect them to win games like this.	**STEELERS** Psst! The Ravens' defense isn't what it used to be.	**RAVENS** These teams will hit each other so hard, you should wear a mouth guard to just watch it.
JETS (PLUS 3.5) AT PATRIOTS	**PATRIOTS** This season feels like the last stand for Belichick and Brady.	**JETS** This game is going to be great on the NFL Network's "Sound FX" show next week.	**JETS** Rex Ryan proving you can win without being a dour sourpuss jerk. I love it.	**PATRIOTS** The first playoff game of the 2010 season. Go with the home team.

Season Tally: Clinton Yates, 33-22; Big Tigger, 26-19; John Domen, 24-21; Matt Swenson 19-21; Dan Steinberg, 26-19; Arnie Applebaum, 21-19

Swengali

Fans Left to Ask, 'Why Not U.S.?'

Jack Lemmon and Marilyn Monroe taught us that some like it hot. FIFA confirmed that Thursday by choosing Qatar as host of the 2022 World Cup.

That's right: The desert nation roughly the size of Connecticut with temperatures reaching 130 F and dreams of building nine air-conditioned arenas sounded like a better host for the world's biggest sporting event than the United States.

By Matt Swenson

Corruption will be alleged, especially when a country as rich as Qatar pulls off an upset of this size on the same day Russia, another fuel-rich nation, got the 2018 Cup. But, in the end, FIFA opted for the first World Cup in the Middle East which — oh, by the way — cares more about soccer than this country.

Would there have been a popularity spike if the United States had won the day? Sure.

Speculation has begun about how much the loss will hurt U.S. soccer. Note that's different than whether the sports' popularity will be damaged here.

Soccer will still grow in the U.S. An increasing number of people are seeing what the fuss is about, even if most would rather watch a Champions League match than an MLS contest.

Would there have been a popularity spike if the United States had won the day? Sure. The sad part is that a generation of future stars can't look forward to representing their country on home soil. It also slows the timetable for capturing the Cup on the field — though that's still a far-fetched notion.

A U.S. Cup would have been a cash cow for FIFA, but the sands of time will have to wait for the American dream.

To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

The Zoo's holiday extravaganza is better than ever… And it's FREE!

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MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

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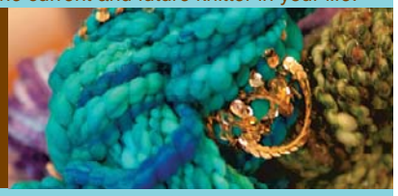
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SARAH SHATZ

Amanda Hesser

COOKBOOK AUTHOR, BRUSSELS SPROUTS FAN

In her memoir, "Cooking for Mr. Latte," Amanda Hesser chronicled both her courtship with her now-husband and her favorite recipes. The former New York Times Magazine staffer and co-founder of foodie blog Food52.com spent five years testing thousands of recipes from the past 150 years of the Times, zeroing in on 1,400 that she published in the resulting tome, "The Essential New York Times Cookbook: Classic Recipes for a New Century" ($40, Norton).

People have a lot of emotional attachment to some of these recipes, don't they?
It stems from the way people feel about cooking and food. When you cook something that you serve to your family, on a holiday you cherish, it sticks with you. One woman wrote to me that one veal chop recipe held her marriage together!

How did you decide which recipes made the cut?
I'd ask myself, "Would I make this again?" When you look at an archives that's 150 years old and holds thousands of recipes, it's tough. I wanted them all to be great recipes and say things about our food culture.

Are there great dishes of the past that we forgot about?
There's one in here, Heavenly Hots, that's something between a pancake and a blini. It's terrific.

Were there any real stinkers?
There were things that I felt as if people wouldn't necessarily like, including Charlotte Russe, a mousse from the 19th century that was too bouncy and had way too much orange flower water. But there wasn't as much aspic as you'd think!

What propels a reader to stop poring over a cookbook and actually make a recipe?
It's the voice of the person who has written the recipe. That was the magic of Craig Claiborne!

> **"The blender changed soups forever. Before that, you could never get them smooth."**

Besides refrigeration, what's the biggest culinary innovation of the past 150 years?
The blender changed soups forever. Before that, you could never get them smooth.

What can't you live without in your own kitchen?
A stand mixer. I think there was a lot of hanging around whisking and beating in old recipes.

Any favorite holiday recipes in here?
I love Craig Claiborne's eggnog. It's so thick you could eat it with a spoon. And I'm a big fan of the recipes for shredded Brussels sprouts. Shredding them totally changes their flavor.

You have young children. How'd you get them to eat this stuff?
They ate practically everything in the book because I had them when I was working on it. Once they started eating solid food, I'd basically just cut everything into little bits.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

Event Horizon | Downtown Holiday Market

Nab gifts by local and national artisans—including bonbons by Georgetown's J. Chocolatier and Cali jeweler Carrie Saxi's minimalist-chic necklaces—at this annual street fair. It features live music and food such as cupcakes, crepes and barbecue sandwiches. Dec. 3-23, noon-8 p.m. F Street NW between 7th and 9th streets; Diversemarkets.net.

goods lookout

Grab Bag

1 Jewel Brief

'TIS NOT THE SEASON to attempt DIY gifts. If you haven't fashioned cuff links from paperclips yet, you won't do it this December. Instead, check out Morton Fine Art's (1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202-390-5118) "Pretty Little Things" exhibit, featuring giftable pieces such as Jane D'Arensbourg's clear Pyrex glass and porcelain necklace ($750, left) and vintage-inspired Swarovski crystal earrings by the Opulent Project. The stuff's on view and for sale through Dec. 22.

4 Star Scores

NO LOVE FOR LATKES? You can still keep the faith by decorating your holiday treats with white and blue — and therefore, totally Jewish — Hannukah Star Blend sprinkles ($6.50, Hill's Kitchen, 713 D St. SE; 202-543-1997). Just don't start baking fruitcake, or we'll have to revoke your menorah.

3 Personal Tote

BEFORE THE RECESSION, a status bag meant something swagged with logos or sewn from an endangered lizard. Now, personal and homemade means more than an armful of Guccis, making Elemental Threads' custom hobos, clutches and totes ($16-$136, Elementalthreads.com) soft arm candy for hard times. Choose from dozens of fabrics (many of them vintage), wait a few weeks, then sport a sack that won't scream, "I'm a pack-following label junkie."

2 One Prep Forward

SO MANY OLD-SCHOOL BRANDS (Pendleton, Levi's) have teamed with hip retailers (J. Crew, Billy Reid) that we're expecting news of a Helmut Lang-Orvis mash-up soon. In the meantime, J. Press (bastion of prep) unstuffs a new men's collection for Urban Outfitter (bastion of snarky T-shirts). Styles such as sweater vests, skinny rep ties and plaid jackets ($28-$148, Urbanoutfitters.com and in stores) summon a Harry Potter-goes-clubbing mood.

5 Give 'Em Shell

AH, NUTCRACKERS: Those little Bavarian gadgets, immortalized by Russian ballets and your Aunt Edna, who still thinks you want a 3-foot wooden one every Christmas. But while you may have many in storage, picking up a novelty nutcracker from West Elm ($24-$59, Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Va.; 571-633-0227) for little Madison or Ethan is a wise investment. Just don't let them use the minimalist, almost menacingly modern things to administer "love bites" to Fluffy or Mister Waggles, the new Christmas puppy.

Dear Manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

I love print shoes, particularly Bettye Muller's. But they cost a lot! Can you suggest a cheaper option to wear for the holidays? I don't want any hoochie mama stuff. — ZELDA

Manolo says, it is always this way, when Non-Specific Winter Holiday Period of Festivities Formerly Known as Christmas rolls around, one wishes to find the clothing that properly expresses the joy inherent in the season.

For most Americans, this means getting the Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer sweater and red velour

sweatpants out of the storage closets and onto the carcass without leaving the comfort of the mobility scooters.

The Manolo's true friends follow the older tradition, which for the men requires brocaded waistcoats, colorful mufflers and top hats festooned with holly. For the ladies, the Manolo loves opulent patterns and the rich embroidery. The Mothers of Hoochie strutting by in their pleather mini-dresses will stop when they see you and go home and put on something decent.

Look! Here is the Bettye Mueller tartan pump on sale at Neiman Marcus for only $214 (Bit.ly/i2foOK)! Ayyy! It is the Holiday Miracle!

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

On the Cover

See page 32 for details on Yun's outfit. Hair and makeup by Richard Bernal, T.H.E. Artist Agency. Model, T.H.E. Artist Agency. Photos by Marge Ely. Shot at the Mexican Cultural Center.

Grab Bag is gathered and reviewed by Jennifer Barger, Katherine Boyle and staff. Find more food, fashion, beauty and home finds at expressnightout.com/grabbag

lookout styles

IN 1966, WHEN YVES SAINT LAURENT DEBUTED A WOMEN'S TUXEDO, the traditional penguin suit zapped from power broker to party girl-powered. Since then, fancy trousers have strutted in and out of the soiree circuit. This winter's slouchy, dazzle-mixed-with-down-home trend means you can be both chic and

PICK UP THE SLACKS

comfortable at office bashes, New Year's balls and holiday dinners (though we discourage elastic waists). Pair sequined shorts or mod tux pants with a blend of sparkly accents (blingy earrings, showy shoes) and dressed-down basics (pretty blouses, a faux fur vest) and no one will mistake you for a waiter or Fred Astaire.

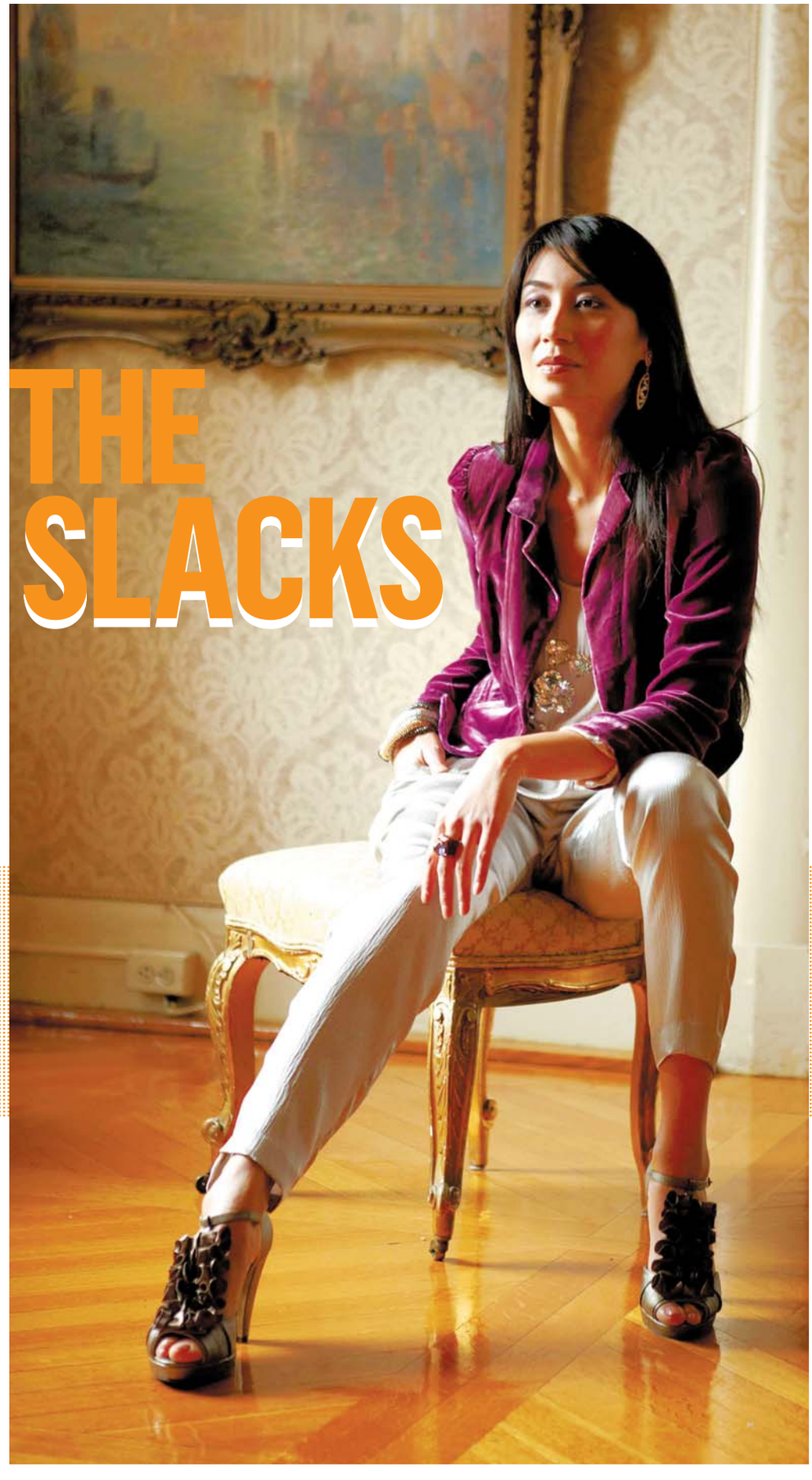
STYLING BY CATHY PHILLIPS → TEXT BY JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

↑ ON THE COVER

Yun sports cropped pants by BCBG Max Azria ($118), a sequined Aqua tank ($88) and an Elie Tahari blazer ($548, all Bloomingdale's, 5300 Western Ave., Chevy Chase; 240-744-3700). Add drop earrings ($32), a festive ring ($40, both South Moon Under, 2700 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington; 703-807-4083), a snake bangle ($38) and pumps by Not Rated ($48, both Shoefly, 2727 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-243-6490).

A CUT ABOVE →

Silk harem-style pants ($139) with a beaded tank ($169, both Club Monaco, 3235 M St. NW; 202-965-2118) make for a swanky silhouette. Pair them with a velvet blazer by Line & Dot ($120, South Moon Under), ruffled sandals ($65), teardrop earrings ($22), metallic stretch bracelets ($18 for set, all Shoefly) and a geometric cocktail ring ($29, South Moon Under).



MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

styles lookout

↑ COMFORT AND JOY

Tailored jeans by Raven Denim ($196), a Patterson J. Kincaid Original blouse ($98, both South Moon Under) and a retro disco blazer ($495, J. Crew, 5335 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-537-3380) bring class to casual. For head-to-toe sparkle, add circle earrings ($15), Randy Berry's Art Deco ring ($25, both Shoefly), a heart-shaped pendant ($32) and lacy stilettos by Lovely People ($89, both South Moon Under).

← JUST ADD PUNK

Be the life (and light) of the party in Larissa Drape's magenta blouse ($215, Reiss, 1254 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-944-8565), leather-adorned leggings by BCBG Max Azria ($118, Bloomingdale's) and a bejeweled necklace ($36, Shoefly). A bold cocktail ring ($68, South Moon Under), Ann Roth booties ($595, Simply Soles, 3222 M St. NW; 202-232-0072) and a Steve Madden handbag ($88, Shoefly) add a touch of Versailles.

SHORT NOTICE ↑

Don't wait for warmer months to don lacy Ginger shorts by Kenny ($139, South Moon Under). Dress them up with a silk blouse ($129, Club Monaco), a Theory cable-knit sweater ($395, Bloomingdale's), Kelsi Dagger boots ($240, Shoefly), an oversized Nixon watch ($450), a statement ring ($40, both South Moon Under), earrings by Kendra Scott ($85, Simply Soles) and a vintage-inspired key necklace ($28, Shoefly).

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entertainment lookout

The Reelist

NIKO TAVERNISE

Auteur Aronofsky

When I saw "Pi," Darren Aronofsky's (above) feature debut, I walked out of the theater feeling like I had fallen out of the weird tree and hit every branch on the way down. But I climbed back up for "Requiem for a Dream" and for every movie since. Because getting mentally battered is best when it's done by a master.

By Kristen Page-Kirby

Aronofsky's filmic S&M continues with "Black Swan." The story of an obsessive ballet dancer, played by Natalie Portman in what isn't so much Oscar bait as a giant neon arrow-shaped sign flashing "INSERT AWARD HERE," "Black Swan," while imperfect, is as intense a movie experience as I can remember.

After the somewhat-respite of "The Wrestler," Aronofsky has returned to his signature style. It's visually loud — every frame is packed, and the camera is rarely still. Add in that he likes to crank the volume to 11, and you leave the theater feeling like every sense has ridden a roller coaster that was built in hell, driven by The Stig, and with the Mad Hatter checking the seat belts. There were stretches in "Black Swan" when I forgot to breathe because I was too busy paying attention. For a movie that is nominally about, hello, ballet (and "Pi" was about MATH), that takes some skill.

It's getting harder to find directors with a signature style; it's a pleasure to find that Aronofsky not only still has his but uses it to inflict just the right kind of pain on his audience.

@ Comments? Give Kristen your feedback: **expressnightout.com/thereelist**

NIKO TAVERNISE/FOX SEARCHLIGHT/AP

ruffled feathers

After a newcomer challenges Natalie Portman's hold on the title role in "Swan Lake," Portman struggles to stay in control and embrace her darker, more sensual side.

A fierce rivalry haunts Natalie Portman in the unsettling ballet drama 'Black Swan'

Film Review

Two years after "The Wrestler," Darren Aronofsky presents a bookend of sorts with "Black Swan," his inspired, unsettling drama about a ballerina teetering on the brink of greatness and madness. Just as Aronofsky discovered unexpected tenderness and vulnerability in the locker rooms of professional wrestling, he brings out the toughness — and, in this case, outright terror — of a world that, while presenting a gentler face, is powered just as compulsively by painful physical and psychological extremes.

As Nina Sayers, Natalie Portman delivers a bravura performance as a child-woman whose fragility gradually gives way to grave, even grotesque self-destruction. Ballet fans be forewarned: "Black Swan" isn't a classic dance film as much as a horror movie in which horror engages in a taut pas de deux with lyricism.

If you're willing to travel down this alternately seductive and sadistic road, Aronofsky proves an assured, if occasionally perverse, guide. Nina is a featured dancer with a New York dance company when the troupe's demanding artistic director, Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel), taps her to star in an upcoming production of "Swan Lake." Her technical brilliance and tentative innocence make her perfect for the White Swan, but he's less sure that she can pull off the ruthlessness and sensuality of her evil twin, the Black Swan. Perhaps Lily (Mila Kunis), a wild-eyed newcomer, would be better suited?

Although Portman is receiving deserved recognition for a brave lead performance, the real breakout in "Black Swan" is Kunis, who provides incandescent ballast to Portman's tortured waif. In Aronofsky's febrile world of doppelgangers and taboo desires, these two actresses make persuasive sisters under the skin in a movie that takes the concept to its most hallucinatory and (literally) goose-bump-raising limits. ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Preparation

The Ballerina Lifestyle

To get herself into prima ballerina form at age 28, Portman (now 29) committed herself to a regimen that included dancing, swimming, weight training and cross training. She practiced five hours a day, every day, for 10 months prior to production. She worked with some of the best ballet trainers in the business, including the legendary Georgina Parkinson (who died just two weeks before the film went into production). Rigorous training took its toll on both Portman and Mila Kunis. Portman injured a rib. Kunis tore two ligaments and dislocated her shoulder. (ENTERTAINMENT NEWS WIRE)

Black Swan (R)

- **Director:** Darren Aronofsky
- **Stars:** Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Vincent Cassel, Winona Ryder.
- **In a Nutshell:** A veteran ballerina tries to prove she can handle the lead role in "Swan Lake," despite competition from a newcomer.
- **For Fans Of:** "The Fountain," "The Wrestler," "Pi."

Revolving Door at McKinley High: CBS News anchor Katie Couric will return to high school to make a guest appearance on Fox's "Glee," a Couric spokesman confirmed Thursday. It was unclear whether Couric, who in her own school days was a cheerleader, would be singing or dancing on the episode. (AP)

Modest Yet Formidable

A young filmmaker finds her voice in the indie 'Tiny Furniture'

Film Review

Art fans of a certain age will know the name Laurie Simmons, whose arresting, color-saturated close-ups of doll house-sized domestic spaces were part of the 1980s New York photography scene that included Cindy Sherman and Richard Prince. Now Simmons' daughter, Lena Dunham, has made a funny, affecting movie about growing up in the shadow of a formidable mom with "Tiny Furniture."

Like the diminutive scale its title implies, this is a film of modest scope but deceptively big ideas. What's more, it announces a promising talent in Dunham, a filmmaker possessed of a refreshingly skeptical voice and a frank, disarming vision.

LANCE EDMANDS/IFC

Laurie Simmons, left, witnesses her daughter's fictitious post-college meltdown.

Tiny Furniture (NR)

- **Director:** Lena Dunham
- **Stars:** Lena Dunham, Laurie Simmons, Grace Dunham, Jemima Kirke
- **In a Nutshell:** A college grad tries to define herself after returning home.

If "Tiny Furniture" takes its inspiration from real life, Dunham adds a layer of fiction, casting herself, her mother and her sister, not as themselves but as characters. Aura (Dunham) has just graduated from college when she returns to the loft she once shared with her mother Siri (Simmons) and the teenaged Nadine (Grace Dunham). Greeted by a nonchalant, 'Oh, hi" and little else, Aura must confront the fact that her presence is no longer cherished in a household where Siri's career and Nadine's precociousness take center stage. When those two decamp for a college tour, Aura seizes on the chance to act out progressively more petulant boundary violations.

In its depiction of anxious young adulthood set amid powerful parental egos, Dunham's dramatic comedy (comic drama?) renders the artist's life with candor, wit and 360-degree clarity. More, please. ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Casting

Family Matters

Lena Dunham, 24, says she cast her mom and sister in "Tiny Furniture" as soon as she began writing the script because she found them so "funny and endearing." But she still had hesitations. "I was writing it for them," Dunham says, "and it occurred to me that this could be really dangerous. None of us are professional actors; there could be no one anchoring this down. But if it does work ... it'll be a really interesting conceit." Read our interview with Dunham at Expressnightout.com. (EXPRESS)

Songs, Dance, Awful Advice

In need of relationship pointers? Brush up on Hollywood musicals

Event Preview

Hollywood musicals represented a utopian ideal for Americans who were crushed by the Great Depression and by the realities of wartime life. They were sumptuous and silly, full of old songs and fantasy dance numbers and dresses covered in feathers. Fred Astaire (shown right) dressed better than anyone in the real world.

But the thing about Utopia is that it's not just paradise; it can offer valuable lessons on how to live. Musicals give us a picture of happiness, and with that they give us a blueprint for living.

We asked Robert Wyatt, who is giving an all-day seminar this Saturday called "Celebrating the Hollywood Musical" at the Smithsonian's Ripley Center, to relay some life lessons he's learned from Hollywood musicals.

Don't be seduced by a guy simply because he sings and dances.

"In every Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire movie," Wyatt says, "it starts off with her despising him, and as soon as she dances with him the first time, or hears him sing — ultimately, he always wins her because he dances so well." To that, we'd add the corollary: If you're choosing between two men, pick the one who can dance. Or better yet, make them have a dance battle.

AP

Don't use a knife to commit a crime

In "Oklahoma" and "Carousel," the two men who try to kill people with knives end up falling on the blades themselves. You should keep in mind, though, that if you've recently won the girl, you're the hero and should feel free to commit crimes with impunity (anything from illegal street racing to hosting craps in a city sewer) as long as you are SURE you're in a musical comedy. If you might be in a musical drama (check for long, operatic interludes), proceed with caution.

If you've recently won the girl, you're the hero and should feel free to commit crimes with impunity ... as long as you are SURE you're in a musical comedy.

Be careful to whom you sing

"In 'The Jazz Singer,' Al Jolson is singing to his mother — he sings 'Blue Skies' and then just ad libs," Wyatt says, "and it's like he's talking to his mistress, not his mother. He was talking about getting her an apartment in the Bronx, and that he was going to take her to Coney Island and kiss her in the Tunnel of Love."

We'd like to add "don't flirt with your sister" to this piece of advice. In "Royal Wedding," Fred Astaire and Jane Powell play a brother-sister team who sing romantic songs to each other and stay in the same hotel room. Um. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; Sat., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $120; 202-633-3030, Residentassociates.org. (Smithsonian)

entertainment lookout

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

It's official: Late-night museum parties are the new '80s prom-themed parties. Looking for a way to get younger people to check out the same-old museum spaces? Open exhibits after work, hire a DJ, bring in a cash bar and hope that some of them come back during daylight hours. The latest museum to jump on the bandwagon is the Newseum, whose first after-hours event is **ALL ACCESS** (8 p.m., 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386), a joint promotion with Brightest Young Things. The $15 ticket ($20 at the door) includes access to all exhibits, DJ Autorock spinning party tunes, films, a talk about nuclear disarmament and other surprises.

SATURDAY

The **SANTA STUMBLE** is one of our favorite holiday traditions. Revelers dress as Santa, Mrs. Claus, reindeer, elves and the Grinch, then hop between Georgetown bars, spreading holiday cheer and raising money for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Fund. Here's the deal: Meet at the Third Edition (1218 Wisconsin Ave. NW) between 4 and 7 p.m. wearing some sort of seasonal costume. Make an optional donation to charity. At 7:30 p.m., the whole crew — usually numbering in the dozens — takes off for Rhino Bar, delighting and baffling crowds along Wisconsin Avenue and M Street. At 10, the party heads for Garrett's, where the night wraps up.

EVY MAGES/FTWP

Roots and reggae fill the weekly Lovers Rock Night on Sunday at Patty Boom Boom.

SUNDAY

Sometimes you want to get intense to some dancehall; other times you may be moved by roots and culture to meditate on the struggles of the world. But for romancing, Lovers Rock is the reggae lane of choice. Get your fill of classic amorous jams from the likes of Sugar Minott and Louisa Mark as DJ IAM kicks off the weekly **LOVERS ROCK NIGHT** at Patty Boom Boom (9 p.m.; 1359 U St. NW; 202-629-1712).

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at Goingoutguide.com.

Now Playing

127 HOURS (R, 90 minutes) "127 Hours" tells the true story of Aron Ralston, a climber who in 2003 became trapped in a slot canyon in Utah, his right arm pinned under a falling boulder. Most of the buzz about the movie, which stars James Franco, centers on the film's climax, when Ralston breaks and then amputates his own arm in order to escape certain death. Although Ralston's act of desperation is difficult to watch, viewers who avoid the film would be depriving themselves of an exhilarating experience. **A.H.**

BURLESQUE (PG-13, 100 minutes) The first genuine showstopper in the musical "Burlesque" is a brassy, bawdy anthem called "Welcome to Burlesque," a valentine to pure camp made all the more exhilarating in that it marks Cher's return to the big screen after a too-long seven-year hiatus. Granted, this uneven but infectiously cheery movie is clearly designed around Cher's co-star, pop star Christina Aguilera, who in her feature film debut bumps and grinds and shimmies and belts her way to certain stardom. Aguilera plays young, ambitious singer-dancer Ali Rose, who teeters out of her Iowa trailer park to make it big in Hollywood. **A.H.**

STEPHEN VAUGHAN

Cher, left, and Christina Aguilera bring killer vocals to the "Burlesque" stage.

FAIR GAME (PG-13, 104 minutes) Naomi Watts delivers an uncanny portrayal of former CIA operative Valerie Plame in "Fair Game," a political thriller that deftly navigates the knife edge between all-too-familiar recent history and more universal personal drama. For the most part, director Doug Liman steers clear of re-litigating the leak of Plame's name to the media during the Bush administration, instead focusing on how her being a spy, and then being outed, affected Plame's marriage to Joe Wilson (Sean Penn). After a dicey situation in Kuala Lumpur in which Plame persuades a local contact to become an informer, she returns home. Soon, Plame is reassigned to work on a task force studying whether Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. **M.O.**

Continued on page 32

"A WICKED PSYCHO SEXUAL THRILLER." VARIETY

"OUTLANDISHLY ENTERTAINING." The New York Times

"YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT YOU." Rolling Stone

"A BEAUTIFUL, BRILLIANT MASTERPIECE." AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

"★★★★ BREATHTAKING." The Philadelphia Inquirer

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VINCENT CASSEL MILA KUNIS

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NowPlaying

Continued from page 31

FASTER (R, 98 minutes) To appreciate this sun-baked revenge flick directed by George Tillman Jr., it helps to have a healthy respect for the movie's charismatic star. "Faster" works best as an ode to its main character, the Chevrolet Chevelle SS. Dwayne Johnson plays a not-unimpressive side of beef who, in his first days out of prison, is gunning for the backstabbing crooks who killed his brother. He's identified, fittingly, only as Driver. As an actor playing a surgeon might spend time observing a hospital, so Johnson appears to have modeled his performance on the bulls of Pamplona. We first see him pacing his cell, gleaming with sweat and snorting with rage as guards approach to lead him to freedom. **DAN KOIS**

THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST (R, 148 minutes) The final, deeply satisfying conclusion to the trilogy of Swedish thrillers based on Stieg Larsson's best-selling novels follows Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace), the series' computer-hacker heroine and titular hornet's nest kicker, after movie No. 2 left her shot in three places and barely breathing. Lisbeth spends the entire first half of "Hornet's Nest" merely recuperating from her injuries and preparing to face a charge of attempted murder in the axing of her father (Georgi Staykov). Yes, he's a bad man. He has also been protected by a secret government cabal that resorts

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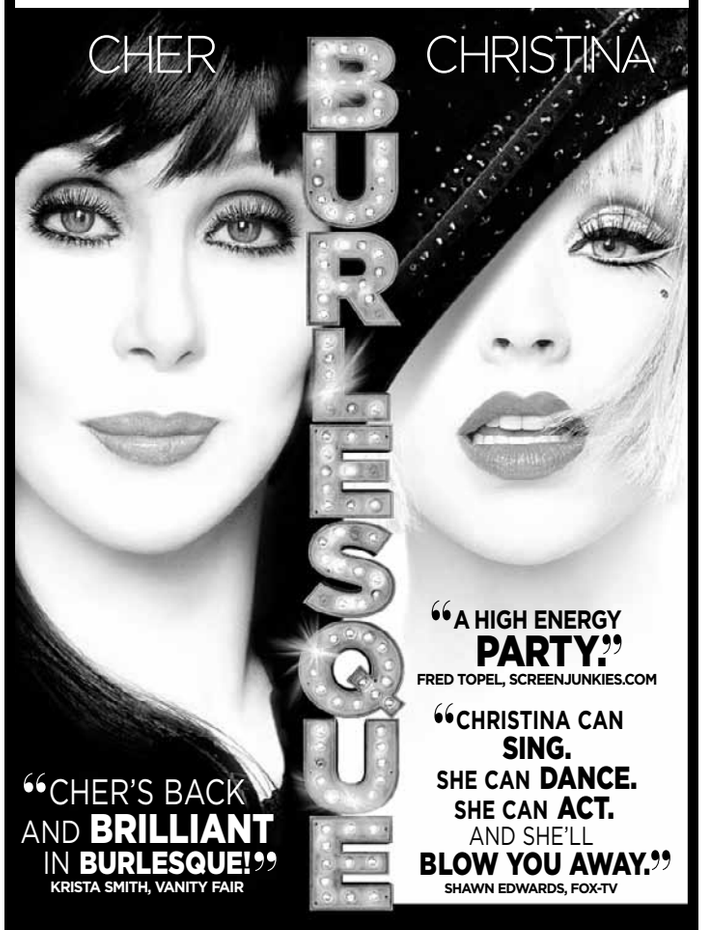

"A HIGH ENERGY PARTY."
FRED TOPEL, SCREENJUNKIES.COM

"CHRISTINA CAN SING. SHE CAN DANCE. SHE CAN ACT. AND SHE'LL BLOW YOU AWAY."
SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV

"CHER'S BACK AND BRILLIANT IN BURLESQUE!"
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"IT IS OFFICIAL... THE MUSICAL IS BACK!"
JAMI PHILBRICK, MOVIEWEB.COM

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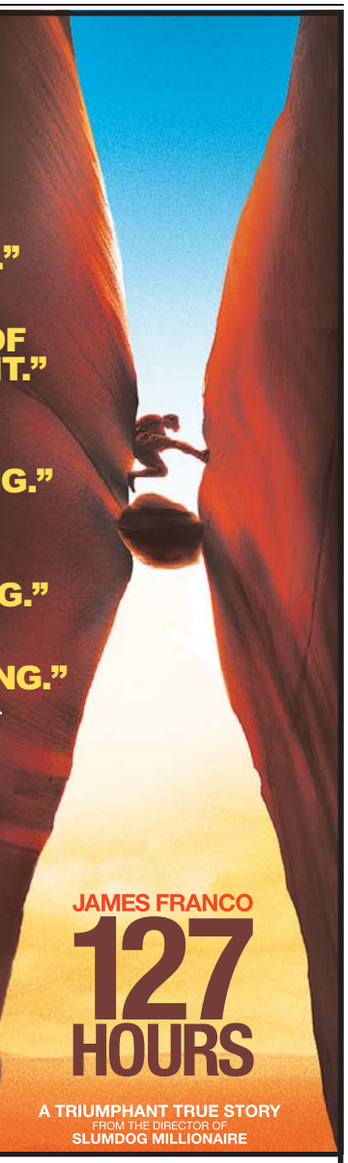

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entertainment lookout

to threats and murder. **M.O.**

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS-PART 1 (PG-13, 145 minutes) The latest installment of the Harry Potter series can't be anything but unsatisfying — it's meant to leave filmgoers wanting more. It's half of a really good movie, full of the enchantment for which the Potter series has become so cherished. The evil Lord Voldemort (a noseless Ralph Fiennes), having taken over the Ministry of Magic, is bent on the destruction of Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) and all the magical-Muggle miscegenation he represents. Meanwhile, Harry, along with his best friends, Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint), has dropped out of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in order to find the "Horcruxes" that give Voldemort his power and immortality, and vanquish him forever. **A.H.**

HEREAFTER (PG-13, 129 minutes) "Hereafter" plays like a smart and stylish thriller. Smart because of the way it pulls back from a full-on embrace of its central premise: the existence of an afterlife for the human soul. Stylish because of its cool and bloodless demeanor. At the center of the mostly mesmerizing but finally flawed film is George Lonegan (Matt Damon). In the script by two-time Oscar nominee Peter Morgan, which has been directed with restraint by Clint Eastwood, George is a former professional psychic who has shut down his lucrative Bay Area practice to work as a menial laborer. His ability to talk to the dead through readings is less the gift one might think. **M.O.**

LOVE & OTHER DRUGS (R, 113 minutes) Give Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway this much: They have the best eyes in the business. That's the most cheering takeaway from "Love & Other Drugs," a jagged little pill of a movie from Edward Zwick. Here, Zwick turns his attention to millennials riding the financial bubble at the turn of the 21st century. The film plays like a grotesque group portrait of pigs at the trough. And none of those pigs is feeding more blithely than Jamie Randall (Gyllenhaal), a charming rake who becomes a pharmaceutical salesman; during his rounds he meets Maggie (Hathaway), a bohemian whose elbows-out demeanor belies a meltingly soft center inside. **A.H.**

THE NEXT THREE DAYS (PG-13, 122 minutes) Russell Crowe delivers a glum, recessive performance as a community college professor lured into a life on the lam. When the film opens, Pittsburgh literature teacher John Brennan (Crowe) is meeting his wife, Lara (Elizabeth Banks), for dinner with John's brother and his bombshell wife. Almost immediately, Lara and her sister-in-law begin arguing; later, in the car, John and Lara enjoy an illicit moment of post-catfight sex. The scenes are clearly meant to bring Lara's impulses and passions to the forefront of filmgoers' minds when, the next day, she's charged with having murdered a co-worker just moments before arriving at the restaurant. **A.H.**

ROBERT ZUCKERMAN

Chris Pine endures a wild ride on the rails in the crisis-filled thriller "Unstoppable."

TANGLED (PG, 100 minutes) "Tangled" is a princess story, in this case that of Rapunzel (voiced by Mandy Moore), who as an infant is abducted from her parents' castle by the vindictive Mother Gothel (Donna Murphy) and raised in a tower, her hair all the time growing, growing, growing. Her super-long (and amazingly well-conditioned) tresses have magical powers that make them light up and turn back the clock for whoever they touch — namely, the youth-obsessed Gothel. Rapunzel's home life may be a study in passive-aggressive dysfunction, but for the most part "Tangled" is zippy and engaging. **A.H.**

TODAY'S SPECIAL (NR, 99 minutes) There's nothing terribly special about this heartwarming if slight foodie comedy set mainly in the kitchen of a struggling Indian restaurant in Queens. Starring "Daily Show" correspondent Aasif Mandvi, the film tells the story of a young, thoroughly assimilated Indian American named Samir, who quits his job as a sous chef in a fancy French Manhattan restaurant, takes over the family's dumpy Tandoori Palace on behalf of his old-fashioned, ailing father (Harish Patel), and in short order has whipped the place into such great culinary shape that the New York Times picks it as the city's best Indian restaurant. **M.O.**

UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13, 98 minutes) Director Tony Scott achieves something close to the action movie in its ideal form with "Unstoppable," which can be summed up thusly: Train out of control! Must stop train! A young, inexperienced railroad conductor named Will (Chris Pine) is on his first shift with veteran train operator Frank (Denzel Washington) on the same day that a train carrying tons of hazardous materials has been sent hurtling down its tracks without a conductor or functioning brakes. A coolheaded train executive named Connie (Rosario Dawson), helps Will and Frank face the impending crises. **A.H.**

> REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY AND MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN. FOR FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

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lookout expressnightout.com

Compiled by Fiona Zublin. For more upcoming events, follow the Top Stops blog at expressnightout.com/topstops.

top stops

1 Make Out!

Because love is for everybody, the Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance is holding a **KISS IN**, which encourages people — gay, straight, bi, transgender, questioning and James Franco — to show up and kiss each other. And put it on YouTube. We suggest you bring breath mints for everyone. ATTENTION: EXPRESS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IF YOU GET A DISEASE FROM THIS. IT MAY NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE OUT WITH A STRANGER, ESPECIALLY DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON, EVEN IF THE STRANGER IS HOT. USE CAUTION. AND TAKE SOME VITAMIN C AFTERWARD, JUST IN CASE. ***Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Sat., 11 a.m., free; Agla.org. (Rosslyn)***

2 Sunshine Substitute

In winter, we start to yearn for sunny, uncomplicated folk rock. The Beach Boys will do, but live music is always better. We like **CHIEF**, who'll be playing at the Rock and Roll Hotel this weekend. It's the kind of music you sway to, maybe hold somebody's hand to and, smile at strangers to. California music, in other words. ***Rock and Roll Hotel, 1353 H St. NE; Sun., 9:30 p.m., $12-$14; 202-388-7625.***

3 What's on Your Face?

You probably know **FRANZ NICOLAY,** left, from his MUSTACHE work with the Hold Steady, though we have a soft spot MUSTACHE for his work with the anarchist punk band Mischief Brew. Now, he's struck out somewhat on his MUSTACHE own, just a lonely accordion player with a MUSTACHE dream and a gig at the Black Cat. ***Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Sun., 9 p.m., $10-$12; 202-667-4490. (U St.-Cardozo)***

Local movie times

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Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 7:15-10:45
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:35-12:00
Love and Other Drugs (R) CC-Closed Captions: 11:30-2:15-4:50-7:35-10:30
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:25-1:55-4:30
Fair Game (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 11:50-2:35-5:15-8:00-10:35
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 1:00-3:45-6:30-9:15-11:50
127 Hours (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 11:55-2:45-5:30-8:15-11:10
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation: 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 11:00-2:45-6:15-9:45
Morning Glory (PG-13) 3:15-8:10
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:50-3:30-5:55-8:20-11:00
Due Date (R) 12:50-5:50-10:50
Burlesque (PG-13) 11:20-2:05-5:00-7:45-10:40
Love and Other Drugs (R) 11:30-2:15-4:50-7:35-10:30
The Social Network (PG-13) 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:25-10:25
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:20-4:10-7:05-9:55
The Warrior's Way (R) 11:10-1:45-4:15-7:00-9:30-11:55

AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:40-4:00-7:20-10:40

AMC Mazza Gallerie
5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:40-10:10
Morning Glory (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21: 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:05
Unstoppable (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21: 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:20
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:10-3:30-7:20-10:30
Megamind (PG) 2:10-4:40-7:00-9:20
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:00
Love and Other Drugs (R) 2:20-4:50-7:30-10:15

Avalon
5612 Connecticut Avenue www.theavalon.org

Burlesque (PG-13) (!) 12:00-2:45-5:30-8:15
The Social Network (PG-13) 3:30-8:30
Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould (NR) 1:00-6:00

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th St. NW www.landmarktheatres.com

Maniac (NR) 12:00AM
White Material (NR) 1:25-4:15-7:05-9:40
The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (Luftslottet som sprangdes) (R) 7:45-10:45
Waiting for Superman (PG) 2:00-4:30
Waste Land (NR) 12:15-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Fair Game (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-9:55-11:30
Inside Job (PG-13) 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50
127 Hours (R) 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:30
Black Swan (R) 12:15-1:30-3:00-4:15-5:45-7:00-8:30-9:30-11:15

Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14
707 Seventh Street NW www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:25-11:50
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05-12:25
Faster (R) Digital Projection: 12:25-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:10-12:40
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:00-2:20-4:40-7:00-9:20
Love and Other Drugs (R) Digital Projection: 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:45
Morning Glory (PG-13) 4:15-9:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) OC-Open Caption: 12:10; 3:20-6:30-9:50
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40
Due Date (R) 12:20-2:40-5:10-8:00-10:20-12:35
The Social Network (PG-13) 1:20-6:55-12:10
Burlesque (PG-13) 12:45-4:00-7:15-10:00-12:40
For Colored Girls (R) 3:40-6:40-9:35-12:30
Faster (R) 1:00
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:45-12:35
Tangled (PG) (!) 1:30-4:20-7:00-9:30-11:50
The Warrior's Way (R) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:10-12:30

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road www.afi.com/silver

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (Luftslottet som sprangdes) (R) 12:30-3:25-6:30-9:20
127 Hours (R) (!) 1:05-3:05-5:05-7:10-9:15
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1941) (NR) 9:15
Bombshell (1933) (NR) 7:00
Red Dust (NR) (!) 5:00

AMC Loews Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) (!) 11:45-3:20-6:45-10:10
Megamind (PG) (!) 12:15-2:45-5:30-8:00-10:15
Unstoppable (PG-13) (!) 12:00-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:45
Burlesque (PG-13) (!) 11:25-2:05-4:50-7:40-10:30
Faster (R) (!) 11:40-2:30-5:15-7:55-10:45
Love and Other Drugs (R) (!) 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:25-10:00
Tangled (PG) (!) 11:20-1:50-4:25-7:00-9:30
The Warrior's Way (R) (!) 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:20

AMC Loews White Flint 5
11301 Rockville Pike www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:45-4:00-7:15-10:30
Morning Glory (PG-13) 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:50
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:05-4:15-7:00-9:45
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:25-4:40-7:50-10:40
Tangled (PG) 12:05-2:40-5:10-7:35-10:00

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:10-1:40-4:20-7:00-9:35
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 10:40-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30-11:00
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:45-4:10-7:30-10:50
Unstoppable (PG-13) 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:20-10:00
Due Date (R) 12:25-2:50-5:20-8:00-10:30
Burlesque (PG-13) (!) 10:30-1:15-4:05-6:50-9:45
Faster (R) (!) 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:10-10:45
Love and Other Drugs (R) (!) 11:00-1:35-4:15-6:55-9:40
For Colored Girls (R) 12:50-4:00-7:10-10:20
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 11:05-2:00-4:45-7:50-10:40
Skyline (PG-13) 10:10
Tangled (PG) (!) 11:50-2:20-5:00-7:40
The Warrior's Way (R) (!) 12:00-2:30-5:05-7:45-10:25

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue www.landmarktheatres.com

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (Luftslottet som sprangdes) (R) 12:55-6:45
Today's Special (R) 2:00-4:30-7:15-9:45
Fair Game (PG-13) 1:45-4:00-4:40-7:00-9:25-9:55
Tamara Drewe (R) 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:35
Inside Job (PG-13) 2:20-4:55-7:20-9:50
Black Swan (R) 1:15-2:15-3:45-4:45-6:30-7:30-9:00-10:00
127 Hours (R) 2:30-5:00-7:25-9:40

Regal Bethesda 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 3:40-7:00-10:10
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:15-4:30-6:50-9:10
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:00-4:45-7:15-9:45
Love and Other Drugs (R) Digital Projection: 2:10-5:00-7:50-10:25
Morning Glory (PG-13) 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:40-6:00-9:10
Unstoppable (PG-13) 2:50-5:10-7:40-10:20
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:00-9:30
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15
The Social Network (PG-13) 3:50-6:40
Tangled (PG) (!) 3:00-5:30-8:00-10:20

Regal Hyattsville Royale Stadium 14
6505 America Blvd.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 1:00-4:10-7:20-10:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:15-3:45-6:45-9:20
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:05-3:30-6:30-9:30
Faster (R) Digital Projection: 1:50-4:20-7:00-10:05
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:30-2:00-4:40-5:10-7:50-8:20
Unstoppable (PG-13) 2:05-4:35-7:35-10:00
Due Date (R) 1:10-3:40-6:55-9:40
For Colored Girls (R) 1:20-4:25-7:25-10:20
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:45
Faster (R) 9:35
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:55
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:55-4:50-7:45-10:40
Tangled (PG) (!) 1:45-4:15-7:15
The Warrior's Way (R) 1:35-3:55-7:30-9:50

Regal Majestic 20
900 Ellsworth Drive

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 1:10-1:50-4:25-5:05-7:40-8:15-11:00-11:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:10-1:00-2:45-3:35-5:15-6:00-7:35-8:30-9:55-10:55-12:30
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:55-2:20-4:40-6:55-9:15-11:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: An IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX 3D: (!) 12:05-3:15-6:30-9:45-12:55
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:40-2:30-3:50-5:50-7:05-9:10-10:20-12:15
Megamind (PG) 1:15-3:40
Morning Glory (PG-13) 6:15-8:45-11:25
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:55-3:20-6:05-8:25-10:50-1:00
Due Date (R) 12:25-2:35-4:55-7:10-9:40-11:55
Burlesque (PG-13) 12:00-1:20-2:40-4:00-5:20-6:40-8:10-9:35-10:45-12:35
Faster (R) 12:15-1:25-3:45-6:05-8:35-11:05
Love and Other Drugs (R) 12:20-3:00-5:35-8:05-9:25-10:40-12:00-1:00
For Colored Girls (R) 12:30-3:25-6:25-9:30-12:25
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:05-4:30-7:30-10:25
Tangled (PG) (!) 1:55-4:15-7:00
The Warrior's Way (R) 2:05-4:35-7:20-10:00-12:20

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Morning Glory (PG-13) 1:50-4:20-7:00-9:30
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:30-2:45-5:10-7:50-10:15
Due Date (R) 7:10-9:40
Burlesque (PG-13) (!) 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:35
Red (PG-13) 2:00-4:40-7:20-9:55
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:40-4:30
Tangled (PG) (!) 12:15-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
The Warrior's Way (R) (!) 2:10-4:50-7:40-10:10

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 11:55-3:30-7:00-10:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:20-12:50-2:55-3:25-5:25-5:55-7:55-8:25-10:20-10:50
Unstoppable (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 11:20-2:00-4:45-7:15-9:50
Faster (R) CC-Closed Captions: (!) 11:00-1:45-4:10-6:55-9:15-11:50
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:05-2:50-5:10-7:35-10:10
Fair Game (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: An IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: 11:30-3:00-6:30-10:00
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:30-1:00-4:05-4:30-7:30-8:00-11:05-11:30
Megamind (PG) 11:40-4:25-9:25
Morning Glory (PG-13) 11:45-2:20-4:55-7:40-10:15
Due Date (R) 11:25-1:55-4:35-6:50-9:30-12:00
Burlesque (PG-13) (!) 11:10-12:10-2:10-3:10-5:05-6:10-8:10-9:10-11:10
Faster (R) (!) 11:00-1:45-4:10-6:55-9:15-11:50
Love and Other Drugs (R) (!) 11:15-12:15-2:15-3:15-5:15-6:15-8:20-9:00-11:00
The Social Network (PG-13) 2:45-8:15
Red (PG-13) 12:00-5:30-10:55
For Colored Girls (R) 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:05
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 12:25-3:20-6:25-9:20
Skyline (PG-13) 2:05-7:10-11:55
Tangled (PG) (!) 12:00-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:45
The Warrior's Way (R) (!) 11:05-1:35-4:00-6:35-9:05-11:40

Alexandria Old Town Theater
815 1/2 King St http://tickets.oldtowntheater.com/

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 4:00-7:15-10:00
Burlesque (PG-13) (!) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00

Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse
2903 Columbia Pike http://www.arlingtondrafthouse.com/

The Town (R) 7:00

Regal Ballston Common 12
671 N. Glebe Road www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 12:20-1:00-3:40-4:20-7:00-7:40-10:20
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:50
Love and Other Drugs (R) Digital Projection: 2:30-5:20-8:10-10:45
Megamind (PG) 1:10-3:50
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:20-3:00-5:40-6:20-9:00-9:40
Hereafter (PG-13) 6:30-10:00
The Social Network (PG-13) 12:50-4:00-7:20-10:10
Faster (R) 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:35
Fair Game (PG-13) 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:30
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:30
127 Hours (R) 12:30-2:50-5:30-8:00-10:40

Regal Kingstowne 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 11:45-1:40-2:55-4:55-6:05-8:15-9:15
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:20-1:35-2:50-4:00-5:15-6:30-7:45-9:00-10:15
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:55-2:20-4:40-7:00-9:25
Megamind (PG) 12:50-3:10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:45-3:55-7:10-9:45-10:20
Morning Glory (PG-13) 6:20-9:05
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:40-10:05
Due Date (R) 12:15-2:35-4:50-7:05-9:30
Burlesque (PG-13) 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
Faster (R) 12:40-3:05-5:30-8:05-10:25
Love and Other Drugs (R) 12:00-2:25-5:00-7:35-10:10
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 12:10-3:25-6:55-9:50
Tangled (PG) (!) 11:45-1:00-2:10-3:30-4:35-6:00-7:15-8:25
The Warrior's Way (R) 12:35-3:00-5:25-8:00-10:30

Regal Potomac Yard 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 1:00-2:50-4:10-6:10-7:30-9:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:45
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:50-4:25-7:00-9:35
Faster (R) Digital Projection: 2:00-4:30-7:20-10:00-11:55
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) OC-Open Caption: 3:30
Morning Glory (PG-13) 2:40-5:20-7:50
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 6:50-9:55
Unstoppable (PG-13) 2:55-5:30-8:00-10:30
Due Date (R) 3:05-5:35-8:05-10:20
Burlesque (PG-13) 2:10-3:40-4:50-6:30-7:40-9:15-10:25
Red (PG-13) 10:20
Faster (R) 10:30
For Colored Girls (R) 3:20-6:20-9:20-12:00
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 3:50-6:45-9:40
Love and Other Drugs (R) 2:20-5:00-7:45-10:25
Tangled (PG) (!) 1:10-3:45-6:35-9:10
The Warrior's Way (R) 2:30-4:55-7:25-9:50-11:50

TV weekend lookout

Best Bets

FRI 9:00

The Good Guys (FOX) Hoping to put an end to Dan's (Bradley Whitford) loose-cannon techniques, a ruthless Internal Affairs investigator reopens a year-old case, an investigation that leads to the release of a deadly gang that is determined to murder the ones who put them away — unless Jack (Colin Hanks) and Dan can stop them. Michael Shanks guest-stars in the new episode "Cop Killer."

SUN 8:00

The Simpsons (FOX) While Marge is getting in the holiday spirit as Christmas looms for Springfield, her family is in full Scrooge mode, prompting her to send a letter to Martha Clause (guest Martha Stewart, shown in cartoon form, right). Later, guest star Katy Perry delays the Simpsons from their tropical vacation.

SUN 9:00

Boardwalk Empire (HBO) In "A Return to Normalcy," the season finale, Nucky and Atlantic City as a whole brace themselves for a possible hurricane of change on Election Day. Torrio negotiates a deal between two nemeses that has far-flung consequences.

SUN 10:00

Bama Belles (TLC) Down-home women in rural Dothan, Ala., juggle their careers, relationships and home lives in this three-part limited series that doubtless will resonate with women who can't relate to Bravo's "Real Housewives" franchise. **(TRIBUNE MEDIA)**

DISCOVERY

Rich With Tension

GOLD RUSH: ALASKA

FRI 10:00

"Gold Rush: Alaska" combines all the right ingredients for a successful manly-man cable series. It has tough guys, big trucks, even bigger rigs, earth-moving equipment, guns, danger, male bonding, temper tantrums, misunderstandings and a strong whiff of desperation. Put a bunch of antsy, down-on-their-luck guys with little mining experience in subarctic conditions, and add heavy machinery and plenty of guns. What could go wrong?

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Reality

Nothing Is Hoff Limits Anymore

"The Hasselhoffs" (10 p.m. on A&E) chronicles the life of actor, German fan favorite and drunken YouTube burger scarfer David Hasselhoff as he juggles his career responsibilities with his duties as a single dad to two adult daughters. In the opening episode, "Hoff the Record," David tries to convince Taylor she should stay in school, while Hayley gets her first big break when she lands a role in a TV series. **(TM)**

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Poll Center

Today's Question

ARE YOU SURPRISED QATAR WAS AWARDED THE 2022 WORLD CUP OVER THE U.S.?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Thursday's Results

DO YOU THINK THE U.S. IS DOING ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS?

46% NO — 54% YES

"As long as the U.S. continues to promote promiscuous, arbitrary and casual sex among younger and younger people, and subsidize the use of intravenous illegal drugs, it will never reduce or stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

AN ANONYMOUS COMMENTER

"Why waste more taxpayer money? As long as loose people are out in force, AIDS will continue to be a problem. You can't fix stupid."

COMMENTER COMMON KEVIN

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

Blog Log

"'Tis a joke decision, frankly, and more proof that FIFA is a repulsive organization. ... We're now all just waiting for Sepp Blatter to shuffle off. Then maybe FIFA can at last become the transparent, honorable organization football needs it to be."

—**WHOATEALLTHEPIES.TV** WAS NOT PLEASED THAT QATAR WON THE 2022 WORLD CUP OVER OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

"As far as famous quarrelsome bands go, A Tribe Called Quest doesn't sit in the forefront of my mind. How can music with the chillest vibes and stuff spawn such ill will?"

—**CONSEQUENCEOFSOUND.NET** IS INTRIGUED BY MICHAEL RAPAPORT'S NEW DOCUMENTARY THAT EXPLORES THE INTERNAL STRIFE OF THE LEGENDARY '90S HIP-HOP GROUP THAT DISBANDED IN 1998.

"One law of media competition applies as strongly to Web properties as it did to their predecessors: Scoops drive audience growth. Gawker Media experienced that rule, painfully. ... TMZ's growth was built upon three gigantic stories: Mel Gibson's meltdown, Michael Richards' racist outburst and Michael Jackson's death. We learned our lesson: Aggressive news-mongering trumps satirical blogging."

—**LIFEHACKER.COM** EXPLAINS WHY ITS PARENT COMPANY IS OVERHAULING ITS LOOK TO A MORE SPLASH-HEAVY FORMAT.

"Apparently, ratings were so high for Bristol [Palin] that producers think the same thing will happen with her father. I can't be mad at this. I love a train wreck, and we've already seen two in that family."

—**987AMPRADIO.RADIO.COM** REALLY HOPES THAT TODD PALIN MAKES THE CUT FOR NEXT SEASON'S "DANCING WITH THE STARS" CAST, AS IS RUMORED.

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Perspective is the key; open your eyes to opportunities and you should be able see things that have more long-term significance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The schedule you've worked hard to build may be thrown out of whack by someone who plays in important role in your affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) It's time to get in gear. Others are waiting for you to address the issues that really matter; a great deal is at stake.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Now is no time for you to sit back and let others call the shots; you can play a pivotal role and help determine where things are going.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Intensity is on the rise at this time, and with the stakes as high as they are, many are willing to go to the mat. Are you?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Questions of policy and pragmatism are likely to clash — until you come up with a way to combine the two effectively.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Certain aspects of your current strategy are right on the money, but others may require some quick and effective adjustment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You are facing a tough personal decision. Don't let another's agenda distract you from what lies ahead for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may not be willing to turn the other cheek, but you can certainly react in a manner that douses rather than fans the flames.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may be able to demonstrate your commitment to certain key issues. One or two friends can help you in a few important ways.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The news you receive from the home front is likely to motivate you in ways that surprise the competition and give you an important edge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're willing to face a challenge that looms, but not before preparing yourself for a fight and arming yourself with key information.

PostPoints DAILY CODE J A

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 150-160, BEST SCORE 217

I1	U1	G2	N1	P3	W4	S1	Double Word Score	RACK 1
I1	O1	H4	N1	M3	S1	K5		RACK 2
O1	O1	G2	R1	L1	N1	P3		RACK 3
I1	U1	U1	P3	L1	N1	G2	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

C3	H4	E1	R1	O1	O1	T1	RACK 1 =	64
T1	R1	I1	L1	O1	G2	Y4	RACK 2 =	61
H4	E1	R1	B3	A1	L1		RACK 3 =	11
P3	O1	T1	H4	O1	O1	K5	RACK 4 =	82
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL	218

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

		9		2	7		3	
						5		
8						7		4
9				4	8		7	
		3				6		
	1		5	6				8
2		8						3
		1						
	6		7	3		2		

Yesterday's Solution

4	2	5	8	1	7	9	6	3
3	1	6	2	4	9	5	7	8
9	7	8	5	3	6	2	4	1
5	9	4	1	6	8	7	3	2
1	3	7	9	2	5	6	8	4
8	6	2	4	7	3	1	9	5
2	8	1	7	9	4	3	5	6
6	5	9	3	8	1	4	2	7
7	4	3	6	5	2	8	1	9

Need more Su|do|ku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS

Forecast

44 | 29

Today: Cold today with sunshine and some clouds. Partly cloudy tonight.

44 | 29

Tomorrow: Partly sunny and cold tomorrow. Partly cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

SUN	MON	TUE
44 | 29	41 | 30	41 | 29

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:09 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:46 p.m.
Moonrise today: 4:55 a.m.
Moonset today: 3:01 p.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 51
Record high: 73
Normal low: 35
Record low: 15

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

lookout puzzles

Crossword

PROTECT YOUR EYES

ACROSS

1 Yellowish fleshy fruit
6 "My Fair Lady" race course
11 "The Gift of the Magi" gift
14 Monkey business?
15 Track of a wild animal
16 Lyrical work
17 Clifford Odets play
20 Varieties or types
21 Land of shamrocks
22 Dish not found in the kitchen
23 Draft choice
24 Emporium
25 Motley assortment of things
26 ___-podge
28 Partner of games
29 Beach Boys hit "Barbara ___"
30 Combed crower
34 Giant homer hitter Mel
35 Practical
37 Crow's cry
38 Urban play area
39 Friend of Frodo
40 Cotillion fig.
41 Market value
45 Home for some skeletons
47 Far from dim-witted
50 "Now I know the answer!"
51 Eats an ice-cream cone
52 Item in Pebbles Flintstone's hair
53 Thin but strong
54 1999 astronomical event watched by many
57 Potential school
58 Word before "Mongolia"
59 Get out of bed
60 Onager, e.g.
61 Pageant prize
62 Fender-bender results

DOWN

1 Shunned one
2 Theater in Harlem
3 Ate like a bird
4 Places where Torah scrolls are kept
5 Fork-in-the-road shape
6 No longer motionless
7 Baseball or golf, e.g.
8 Dove's shelter
9 Delighted exclamation
10 Mine shaft borer
11 Relief for sore tootsies
12 Aroma emitter
13 Not harmful
18 Afternoon drink, for some
19 Ryan of When Harry Met Sally"
24 Bit of cat chat
25 Beyond the suburbs
27 Cultivate
28 Supply meals for
31 First symptoms
32 Knife
33 Won ___ (Chinese dumpling)
34 ___ von Bismarck
35 Greek courtier of legend
36 Investment company T. ___ Price
37 Some colorful cats
39 Outer eye layer
40 Iron-fisted ruler
42 Dried grape
43 Launching-pad force
44 Marques of the Harlem Globetrotters
46 Go down a bunny slope
47 One trying to win a hand?
48 Prefix with "red" or "structure"
49 Ready-go separator
52 Letter after alpha
53 Used to be
55 Word before "juris" or "generis"
56 Used to own

Yesterday's Solution

S	E	T	A	L		B	A	A		S	A	S	H	A
E	R	O	D	E		E	B	B		P	O	M	E	S
A	M	N	O	T		A	L	B		E	L	A	N	S
M	A	I	N	S	Q	U	E	E	Z	E		L	I	T
			I	O	U				Y	O	D	E	L	E	D
W	E	T	S	U	I	T	S		O	O	P	S		
E	R	R		T	R	U	T	H		S	I	T	B	Y
B	I	A	S		T	R	O	O	P		C	U	R	E
B	E	F	O	G		N	A	U	R	U		F	A	A
		F	I	L	M		T	R	A	N	S	F	E	R
D	A	I	L	I	E	S			T	A	U			
A	C	C		B	L	I	S	T	E	R	P	A	C	K
M	C	J	O	B		T	I	S		M	I	N	O	R
O	R	A	R	E		E	L	O		E	N	N	U	I
N	A	M	E	R		S	O	S		D	E	E	P	S

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Samurai Sudoku

DIFFICULT

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

	1		4	8	9		7	
				5		6		
		7				8		
	4	1	6		8	9	3	
			9	3				
	9	2				1	6	
		4						
		8		9				
	5			4	3			

	4		5	7	2		9	
		5		8				
		8				2		
	6	2	9		5	4	7	
				6	3			
	9	1				5	6	
						1		
				9		6		
			8	3			2	

6		7						
7		4						
3	1	8						
2		6						

	4			8	9			
		9		1				
		8						
	8	5				3	9	
			8	2				
	1	7	3		4	5	8	
		1				4		
				7		6		
	5		6	4	2		7	

			4	5			3	
				9		6		
						4		
	4	3				7	1	
				3	6			
	9	7	8		4	3	6	
		5				8		
		9		8				
	8		5	4	3		2	

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Last Week's Solution

1	3	4	5	8	9	6	7	2
7	8	9	3	6	2	5	1	4
2	5	6	1	4	7	9	3	8
8	1	7	9	3	6	2	4	5
9	4	2	8	1	5	3	6	7
5	6	3	7	2	4	8	9	1
4	9	5	6	7	8	1	2	3
3	7	8	2	9	1	4	5	6
6	2	1	4	5	3	7	8	9

1	4	5	2	3	6	7	8	9
3	2	7	8	9	1	4	5	6
9	6	8	4	5	7	3	2	1
5	1	3	6	4	8	2	9	7
6	7	2	3	1	9	5	4	8
8	9	4	5	7	2	1	6	3
7	8	9	1	2	4	6	3	5
2	3	1	9	6	5	8	7	4
4	5	6	7	8	3	9	1	2

5	4	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	8	6	7	9	1	2
6	9	7	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	1	8	3	9	4	5	6	7
3	6	2	9	5	8	1	7	4
6	7	1	4	3	2	6	9	5
9	4	5	6	7	1	8	2	3

4	5	7	1	8	9	3	6	2
6	2	9	3	4	5	8	7	1
3	8	1	6	2	7	9	4	5
5	3	4	7	6	1	2	8	9
8	1	2	9	5	4	6	3	7
7	9	6	2	3	8	5	1	4
1	6	3	5	7	2	4	9	8
2	7	8	4	9	3	1	5	6
9	4	5	8	1	6	7	2	3

6	8	9	7	1	4	3	2	5
6	9	5	4	7	8	3	2	1
8	2	3	6	9	1	4	5	7
7	1	6	5	4	2	8	9	3
5	3	2	8	6	9	1	7	4
9	4	8	7	1	3	2	6	5
3	6	7	2	5	4	9	1	8
2	8	1	9	3	7	5	4	6
4	5	9	1	8	6	7	3	2

Today in History

1828 Andrew Jackson is elected president of the U.S. by the Electoral College.

1833 Oberlin College in Ohio — the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States — begins holding classes.

1960 The Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot" opens on Broadway.

1967 Surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard perform the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky.

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people lookout

ONE BIG AD

Pathetically Disguised Publicity Stunt Even More Transparent Than Usual

Reese Witherspoon has been saluted with a star on Hollywood Boulevard. The actress unveiled her Walk of Fame honor on Wednesday outside the W Hotel. It's the 2,425th star dedicated. The ceremony was scheduled to coincide with the Dec. 17 release of Witherspoon's latest movie, "How Do You Know." **(AP)**

NOT REALLY

The Secrets of A Star's Divorce!

Christina Aguilera's marriage to Jordan Bratman was "unhealthy and unhappy" for both of them, so much so that she felt she had to file for divorce for the sake of her son, she told People.com. "When you're unhappy in your marriage, your children are the ones who suffer," she said. Aguilera also confirmed that she's dating Matthew Ruler, a set assistant. **(EXPRESS)**

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

Non-health and non-happiness are generally poor reasons to stay married.

Victims

You May Begin the Weekend in Peace!

Mexican authorities have given Madonna's gym the green light to open after a period of uncertainty. Authorities in the Miguel Hidalgo district, where the gym is located, said Wednesday that the legal representatives of the singer's Hard Candy Fitness had presented all the missing documents, and the gym is free to begin operating. (AP)

FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

POLLS

She RSVPs 'No, but Thanks'

Ellen DeGeneres is America's most-desired party guest, according to a survey by the HomeGoods store chain. Reuters reported that 39 percent of those polled wanted DeGeneres, followed by Whoopi Goldberg, Kelly Ripa and Kathie Lee Gifford. Americans also want Michelle Obama to decorate their Christmas tree and would like to take a vacation at George Clooney's residence in Italy. **(EXPRESS)**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mustache Also Made Honorary Texas Ranger

Chuck Norris played a Texas Ranger on television. Now he's going to become one in real life. Texas Gov. Rick Perry presented the actor and executive director of "Walker, Texas Ranger" with a designation as an honorary member of the law enforcement group Thursday. Perry made the actor's younger brother, stunt coordinator and producer Aaron Norris, a ranger, too. **(AP)**

"Yes, I am aging. Oh, my God, I'm aging all the time. It's like those flowers that wilt in front of you in time-lapse films."

—**SARAH JESSICA PARKER** TELLS ELLE MAGAZINE SHE WON'T UNDERGO COSMETIC SURGERY. "I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT AGING," SHE EXPLAINED.

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